[alta]
AL.1.691
2

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIAN OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS COLLECTION
DE PUBLICATIONS OFFICIELLES CANADIENNES
NATIONAL LIBRARY, BIBLIOTHEQUE NATIONALE CANADA

CANADIANA

MAY 23 1978

(10)

May 1, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Edelweiss Canadian Dandy . . . 1
Cattle Price and Supply Outlook . . . 2
Flax Quotas Incorrectly Stated in Preseeding Report . . . 4
Fababean Production . . . 5
Straw Burning not Recommended for the Prairies . . . 7
Celebrating the Sun . . . 9
An Insect Monitoring System for Alfalfa Seed Producers . . . 11
Selecting an Apiary Site . . . 12
Alberta Food and Beverage Companies at Hostex '78 . . . 15

Phone (403) 427-2127

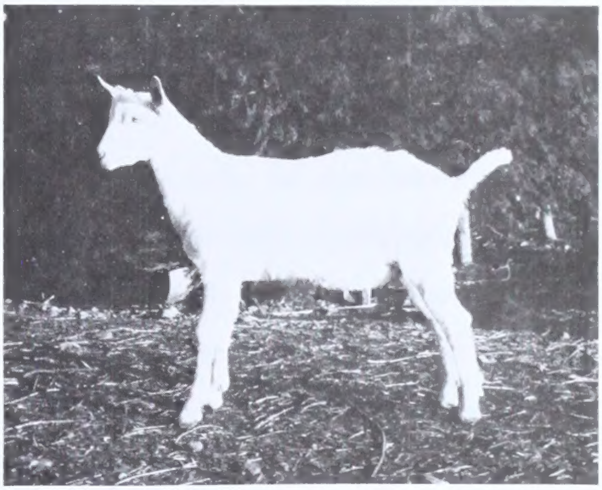
Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

May 1, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EDELWEISS CANADIAN DANDY

Who is Edelweiss Canadian Dandy? He is a purebred Saanen dairy goat that will be leaving Alberta shortly for his new home in California.



Three-month old Edelweiss Canadian Dandy

His owner, Ruth Mausolf, who is also editor of the Alberta Goat Breeders' Association's publication "Slant", says, that as far as she knows Dandy will be the first Alberta goat to be exported to the United States and the first Canadian goat to be imported by California.

She also says that Edelweiss Canadian Dandy was ordered before he was born. What is so special about this three-month old kid that he should be so much in demand? According to Mrs. Mausolf, it is his selective breeding. His mother gave 18 pounds of milk a day during her first lactation and kept milking continuously until she produced Dandy.

Mrs. Mausolf plans to deliver Dandy to his new home personally (by truck). She also plans to pick up some dairy does or kids while she is in California to sell at this year's Alberta Goat Breeders' Association Spotlight Sale, scheduled to take place in Bon Accord on June 17.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2014

https://archive.org/details/agrinews00albe_58

May 1, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CATTLE PRICE AND SUPPLY OUTLOOK

Canadian and American cattle prices are expected to be higher for the balance of 1978 than was anticipated at the beginning of the year.

Maurice Kraut, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, says the reason for this upward revision of prices is the lack of expansion in U.S. hog production, which was not expected, and the 4 to 6 per cent decrease in North American beef production, which was expected.

Current predictions call for an average price of $51 to $54 per hundredweight, basis Calgary, for A1 and A2 steers during the second quarter of this year. At times these prices could peak at around $60 per hundredweight. Heavy-weight feeder steer (800 pounds) prices are expected to average in the mid-$50 range. They could go higher if buyers become overoptimistic. Light-weight feeder steers (400 to 600 pounds) are predicted to be in the high $50 per hundredweight range and to reach the low to mid $60 level at times. The outlook for all classes of cattle in the third quarter of the year is for steady to stronger prices. Prices could be even $2 to $3 higher than the second quarter average. D1 and D2 cow prices are expected to be in the low $40 per hundredweight range and to reach the high $40 level at times.

U.S. prices for choice slaughter steers, basis Omaha, are forecast by the United States Department of Agriculture to average in the mid to high $40 per hundredweight range. Third quarter prices are currently expected to be in the high $40 to low $50 per hundredweight category.

Mr. Kraut predicts the cow-calf sector of the industry will have the best year since 1973. He stresses, however, that this does not mean that the feedlot sector of the industry will enjoy the same benefits. "With feeder cattle supplies somewhat reduced, a discounted Canadian dollar, and a high degree of optimism in the North American cattle industry, U.S. competition for available Alberta feeder cattle could seriously affect provincial feedlot operators' returns." he says. "If the Canadian dollar stays at the 90¢ equivalent or lower, large-scale feeder cattle exports to the United States will occur, and this could have severe repercussions on Alberta's feeding, packing and processing industries."

- (cont'd) -

Cattle Price and Supply Outlook (cont'd)

Canadian cattle inventories on January 1 of this year were down 6 per cent from a year earlier to just under 14 million head, while Alberta cattle inventories were down 5 per cent to just over 3.8 million head. The 1978 Canadian calf crop is expected to be down 4 to 6 per cent compared with 1977 or to be about equal to that of 1972.

American cattle inventories as of January 1, 1978, were down 5 per cent compared with a year earlier, and stood at 116.3 million head. This is the lowest level reached since 1971-72 On the other hand, the potential heifer and steer feeder supply (500 pounds and over) is virtually unchanged from 1977 levels.

Mr. Kraut says feeding margins in Alberta have shown a considerable improvement from those of last year. A similar situation exists in the United States, with the result that optimism in the North American cattle industry has been renewed.

According to Mr. Kraut, there are three basic factors that could have an important effect on 1978 cattle prices. One of these is feed grain prices and supplies. There is no way of knowing at this time what they will be from June onwards. The second factor that will have a bearing on cattle prices during the last half of this year is hog production levels in the U.S. There is no way of determining how accurate the American March 1 survey was. The third factor concerns Canadian and U.S. beef and veal import controls. Will they remain in place for the balance of 1978?

May 1, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FLAX QUOTAS INCORRECTLY STATED IN PRESEEDING REPORT

The initial quota for delivery of flaxseed to crushers will be 500 kilograms or 20 bushels per assigned acre this year.

According to the Grain Marketing Office in Ottawa, the figures of 380 kilograms or 15 bushels per assigned acre, quoted in the preseeding report entitled "Crop Year 1978-79" are incorrect. However, the initial quota on deliveries to primary elevators is 200 kilograms or 8 bushels per assigned acre as stated in the report.

- 30 -

May 1, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FABABEAN PRODUCTION

If you are planning to grow fababeans this year, you will find the following comments taken from Al Meston is 1977 fababean production report very helpful. Mr. Meston was special crops fieldman with Alberta Agriculture.

- Fababean forage is an excellent source of farm grown protein that is readily used by both beef and dairy cattle.

- The input costs of growing fababeans are somewhat higher than for cereals and other legumes, mainly because of a higher outlay for planting the seed. However, certain characteristics and advantages of fababeans more or less offset these higher costs.

- Fifty or 60 pounds of 11-48-0 or 11-55-0 per acre is an adequate amount of fertilizer for fababeans in most areas because they are a legume crop.

- Production of actual protein per acre is considerably higher for fababeans than it is for other feed and forage crops.

- Fababeans are a good "break" crop in a crop rotation program.

- Fababeans can be used as a grain or as forage. If the grain gets frozen in the early fall, the crop can be used as a high protein forage without any danger of toxicity.

- Fababeans will condition the soil and significantly increase the nitrogen level in most soils. Cereal or oilseed crops that are grown on fababean stubble will yield as well as, or better than, a similar crop grown on an adjacent or nearby summerfallow.

- Fababeans are a good nurse crop for alfalfa, clovers and grasses.

- Fababean seed should be inoculated with a specific inoculant to enhance its natural ability to fix nitrogen from the air. Inoculated seed should be kept covered because the bacteria is short lived when exposed to the air or to direct sunlight.

- Weed control is essential for the achievement of maximum fababean growth and yield. The crop can be harrowed as often as is necessary until the seedlings have reached a height of four or five inches. Certain herbicides have been found to be quite effective if applied in

- (cont'd) -

Fababean Production (cont'd)

accordance with the manufacturer's directions. Some of them are Carbyne and Avadex for controlling wild oats, Treflan for controlling wild oats and certain other weeds and Dinoseb and Tropotox for controlling stinkweed, wild mustard, pig weed, etc.

- Fababeans should be seeded as early as possible, regardless of whether they are being grown for grain or forage. Because they are a long season crop, they require time to reach their full potential. They can stand spring frosts, but will be detrimentally affected by a fall frost.

- Fababean seeding rates of 140 to 160 pounds per acre gave the best yields and the earliest maturity last year.

- Fababeans grown on good, clean cereal stubble with an adequate supply of moisture will produce yields equal to those obtained from a crop grown on summerfallow.

- Great care must be taken not to damage fababean seed during the planting operation. The feed cup-gates on the drill should be lowered and the shaft openings widened to allow a free and even flow of seed. To ensure a more uniform seeding depth and to avoid possible seed damage, the travelling speed of the tractor should be reduced to about three miles per hour. A seeding depth of not less than three inches is recommended.

- The best available fababean varieties for forage and silage appear to be "Herz Freya" and "Ackerperle". "Diana" appears to be better suited to seed production.

Last year the number of people who grew fababeans in Alberta increased by 50 per cent compared with 1976. The acreage planted to fababeans in 1977 was 15,000 acres. According to Mr. Meston, fababean silage yields last year ranged from 3 to 5.5 tons per acre. He reports that early laboratory tests on silage samples indicated a protein content varying from 15.4 to 19.6 per cent. Hand threshed seed samples had a protein content ranging from 26 to 30 per cent.

- 30 -

May 1, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STRAW BURNING NOT RECOMMENDED FOR THE PRAIRIES

Although recent reports from England suggest that straw should be burned if seeding is to be done directly into the stubble of the previous crop, this practice is not recommended for the Canadian Prairies.

Dr. W. B. McGill of the University of Alberta's department of soil science says the contradiction between these two recommendations is more apparent than real and is rooted in the different cropping, soil and climatic conditions that prevail in the two areas.

High molecular weight products, released during decomposition of the crop residue, help to maintain a desirable soil structure which affects water infiltration, storage and erosion. It is for this reason and for wind erosion control and the maintenance of winter snow cover that straw should not be burned on the Canadian Prairies.

A second reason for not burning straw is that crop residues provide an energy source for soil organisms which helps to maintain an active and diverse organism population. In addition to affecting soil fertility, the population's structure and dynamics may affect the incidence of crop infection by soil-borne pathogens. However, this relationship is complex and has still to be fully worked out.

A third reason for not burning straw is that it tends to cause the gaseous loss of the nitrogen in the straw.

Dr. McGill says two negative side-effects of a crop residue in or on the soil are important when deciding whether or not to dispose of it. The first has long been recognized as the potential immobilization of mineral N within the soil organisms that are decomposing the residue. Immobilization can and does occur, but the amount of N thus tied up is small, and the effect on the crop yield is very difficult to see under Western Canadian cropping systems. In fact, after the continual incorporation of crop residues, a large "biological buffer" is built up which

- (cont'd) -

Straw Burning Not Recommended for the Prairies (cont'd)

eliminates any noticeable immobilization of mineral N. According to Dr. McGill, added straw increased the yield and protein content of wheat in a seven-year experiment carried out by Agriculture Canada at Brandon, Manitoba, and published in 1967.

The second side effect that results from incorporating crop residues is the well documented production of low molecular weight soluble or volatile by-products during decomposition. Although the by-products of decomposition are normally quickly remetabilized by soil organisms, and do not usually accumulate in significant quantities, they can accumulate when a large amount of straw decomposes in a narrow band under cool, wet weather conditions.

When toxic organics do accumulate, they can retard the development of seedlings growing through the soil zone containing them. According to Dr. McGill, the most serious negative side effects are to be expected when fall-planted crops emerge through a layer of straw from the previous crop that has slowly decomposed during a cool, wet fall and winter. Since soil on the Canadian Prairies is normally frozen during the winter months, and most crops are spring seeded, seedling damage, if it occurs at all, is expected to be minor compared with that which occurs in England and in some parts of the northwestern United States. In England fall seeding into untilled crop residues has markedly reduced the yields of such crop as winter wheat relative to yields obtained when the straw is removed by burning or conventional tillage practices. The main advantage of zero tillage in England is that it facilitates fall seeding when the soil is wet and would be difficult to till.

Dr. McGill points out that all of the above mentioned positive and negative side-effects tend to occur in all soils, but to varying degrees. Under western Canadian conditions, the positive side effects outweigh the negative side effects.

May 1, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CELEBRATING THE SUN

Did you know that International Sun Day is scheduled for May 3 this year? Do you know what International Sun Day is? And did you know that the Northern Alberta Chapter of the Solar Energy Society of Canada Inc. (SESCI) is sponsoring a number of Sun Day activities in Alberta in support of International Sun Day?

International Sun Day is the day that Canada, the United States and approximately 21 other countries will celebrate the sun and all that it means to us. It is, for example, the world's only inexhaustible, nonpolluting, safe, terrorist-resistant, free energy resource.

On International Sun Day the Northern Alberta Chapter of SESCI plans to hold a panel discussion on "The Economics of Renewable Energy" at the University of Alberta. Panelists will include Dr. T. L. Powrie, department of economics, Dave Panar, Cheriton Associates, Dr. Stan Drugge, department of economics, and Dick D'Alquen, chairman of the Northern Alberta Chapter of SESCI.

On May 4 a number of films on solar and alternative energy sources will be shown from 7:30 to 10 p.m. in the music room of the Centennial Library in Edmonton. Several members of the Northern Alberta Chapter of SESCI will be on hand to answer questions.

There will be solar energy displays at the Muttart Conservatory, the Edmonton Centennial Library and the Jantzen Nature Centre, near Fort Edmonton, from May 1 to May 6. A flat plate air collect and a model solar home will be on display all week at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology.

On May 13 and 14 there will be a solar greenhouse construction workshop, sponsored by the University of Alberta. On May 27 and 28 the university will hold another workshop on solar residential design.

Further details on any of the above activities and information on registering for the workshops can be obtained from Gerry Wright, Corbett Hall, University of Alberta, Edmonton, T6G 2G4. His telephone number is 432-5318.

- (cont'd) -

Celebrating the Sun (cont'd)

There is also a program planned for the University of Calgary on International Sun Day. It will start at 9 a.m. and will cover such things as solar principles, solar application, energy conservation and solar components. In the afternoon there will be a visit to an alternate energy shelter and to the construction site of Abacus Solar Townhouse.

Further information on the Calgary program can be obtained from Dr. Tang G. Lee, Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Calgary, Calgary. His telephone number is 284-6603.

The National Research Council of Canada has taken an active part in the research and development of solar energy applications across Canada, and, through the agency of its Solar Energy Project, has funded the installation of many solar space and hot water systems in residential, commercial and industrial buildings. The Division of Building Research has been responsible for monitoring the solar installations so that their effectiveness can be appraised.

- 30 -

May 1, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AN INSECT MONITORING SYSTEM FOR ALFALFA SEED PRODUCERS

The directors of the newly formed Alberta Leafcutter Association met in Brooks recently to discuss the establishment of an integrated pest management program that would encompass regular field inspections to monitor pest and beneficial insect populations in alfalfa seed fields in the country of Newell.

Aubrey Sherman, forage specialist with Alberta Agriculture, says funds have already been appropriated to provide for the inspection of 3,000 acres of alfalfa used for seed production. Alfalfa growers in the area raised half the fund and the remainder came from the Newell Agricultural Service Board.

The country of Newell produces the largest volume of alfalfa seed in Canada. At the present time 75 farmers are growing alfalfa on approximately 4,000 acres. Mr. Sherman says a major concern of these growers is the large increase in the population of insects that are extremely damaging to alfalfa seed production. Farmers in the area estimate that insect damage reduced their seed yields by 40 to 50 per cent last year.

Experience has proved to these growers that insect populations must be monitored at least once a week if meaningful decisions on control measures are to be made. However, the growers do not feel that they are capable of carrying out their own monitoring service because of the large variety of insects involved.

Mr. Sherman points out that the population of both damaging and beneficial insects must be established before a seed producer can decide whether it is economical for him to spray for a particular problem. "The information obtained from regular field inspections would also provide valuable information to entomologists at federal and provincial research institutions," he says.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SELECTING AN APIARY SITE

Your selection of an apiary site can have a big effect on the volume of honey you will get this summer.

One of the first things you should consider when choosing a site is wind protection at ground level. It is extremely important to choose an area that is well protected by trees, a hedge or an artificial windbreak. Colonies that lose worker bees through drift in the early spring, while they are still weak, have a very hard time to make up this loss.

The site you choose should also be sunny because bees thrive in heat. Heat promotes a rapid population build-up and makes the bees much less susceptible to Nosema disease. Hence, pine groves and areas treed with poplars are more sutiatble for an apiary location than an area surrounded by spruce trees, unless the latter is used only as a windbreak.

An adequate supply of pollen in the vicinity of the apairy is essential. Poplars, willows, fruit bushes and trees and dandelions are all excellent sources of pollen and nectar. Poplars are the main souce of early spring pollen.

Since colonies that are rearing brood require a large quantity of water, an apairy should be near a dependable source of water. It should be located where the bees will not create friction between the beekeeper and his neighbours. Sometimes the sheer number of bees around a water source will interfer with animals and human beings in the vicinity.

The line of flight between the apiary and the area where the bees gather their pollen and nectar is extremely important. If a potential problem exists, the apiary should be located so that the flight of the bees will be directed out of the danger area. Since millions of heavily laden bees are killed each year on the way back to their hives by speeding automobiles, a hive that is located near a busy road should be placed on a bluff so that the bees have to fly well above the road. An alternative would be to place the apiary behind a row of small trees or tall shrubs which they would have to fly over when coming and going.

- (cont'd) -

Selecting an Apiary Site (cont'd)

If possible choose an apiary location that does not have to be fenced against cattle or bears. Fences are expensive and time-comsuming to install. However, in some northern areas commercial beekeeping would be very difficult, if not impossible, without fences to keep out bears. In such areas an electric fence has proved an effective deterrent to most bears when used in conjunction with a selective bear removal program.

Two other factors that are often overlooked when people are looking for apiary locations during good weather are accessibility during long periods of rain and the possibility of a flood. Low-lying areas, although tempting because they often contain the best forage for bees, should be avoided if they are prone to flooding. A flood can cause heavy losses of equipment and bees and damage honey combs in the colonies.

A good rule of thumb regarding the number of colonies to place in an apiary and the number of apiaries to place in a given area is to put only as many as can be supported during the poorest part of the season. Since it is far better to aim for relatively uniform returns from a beekeeping operation than to have high and very low years, it is a good idea to spread a number of apiaries over an area that has different rainfall potentials,soil types, elevations,crops, etc.

Another advantage of dispersing apiary locations over a wide area is that the main nectar flow starts in different places at different times, thereby making it possible to stagger the workload. If colonies are to be moved to the main nectar crop, the stronger should be moved to the locations where the nectar flow is expected to start early and the weaker ones to the later-flow areas.

Since bees can fly up to a distance of two miles from the apiary, and will sometimes fly much further, it is a good idea to place an apiary between two main sources of nectar if they are within four miles of each other. The bees then have more than one potential source of this food. This is especially true if the areas contain different crops which yield differently under

- (cont'd) -

Selecting an Apiary Site (cont'd)

similar weather conditions or which have different flowering periods. As a general rule, the more crops there are in the vicinity that yield pollen and nectar, the better the chances of a profitable honey crop.

May 1, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA FOOD AND BEVERAGE COMPANIES AT HOSTEX '78

"I am surprised at the number of serious contacts we have made today."

That comment came from a representative of Canbra Foods Ltd., one of the eight Alberta companies which, in addition to the Alberta Potato Commission, featured products at Hostex '78 in the CNE Coliseum in Toronto. Canbra Foods Ltd. processes a complete line of baking and frying shortenings, vegetable oils and margarines.

The other companies which had displays at Hostex '78 were Faith Farms Ltd. (cheese); Heritage Foods Ltd. (frozen ethnic foods); Highland Produce Ltd. (frozen eggs and other egg products); Pak-Well Produce Ltd. (fresh and processed potatoes); Palliser Distillers Ltd. (distilled alcoholic beverages); Phil's Industries Ltd. (frozen meat products); and Western Pie and Pastries Ltd. (frozen pastry shells).

The Alberta companies represented at Hostex '78 were very pleased with their display area, called "Alberta Presents", and made good contacts with buyers from across Canada. These contacts ranged from small independent restaurant owners to brokers, distributors and large food chain officials.

The Commonwealth Games promotion contest proved very popular with the people who attended Hostex '78.

An annual event, Hostex, is the largest restaurant, hotel and motel trade show in Canada. It provides exposure for the food and beverage industries to over 20,000 buyers and representatives of the Canadian Restaurant and Food Service Association as well as to representatives of the hotel and motel trade. It assisted Alberta's food industry to expand its food service markets in central Canada, and especially in Ontario.

Alberta Agriculture food marketing branch encouraged and helped Alberta's food industries to participate in Hostex '78 by providing resource personnel, printed promotional material and a display structure.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS
ne (403) 427-2127

AL.1.691

AGRI-NEWS

May 8, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Hog Outlook 1

Selecting Bulls for Reproductive Performance 3

Preventing Water Contamination Through Yard Hydrants 6

Fertilizing Rapeseed 7

Candle Rapeseed can be sold to Dealers and Elevators 9

Vaccinating for IBR 10

Fertilizing Pastures and Hay Fields 11

Seeding Rapeseed 13

Buying A Used Car 15

Alberta's Food Products Brochure 16

Head of Agricultural Processing Development Branch Appointed 17

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

(403) 427-2127

May 8, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOG OUTLOOK

The average price for Alberta hogs during the second quarter of this year is expected to be in the low to mid-$60 range, while the Canadian average price is predicted to be around $65 per hundredweight. Third quarter expections are for a continuation of this price level.

Current Canadian meat supply estimates for 1978 are for a 3 to 4 per cent decline in beef, a 4 to 5 per cent increase in pork and an 8 to 10 per cent increase in poultry. The overall result will be a moderate decline in the total meat supply situation. Alberta Agriculture's market analyst, Maurice Kraut, believes that if the beef, pork and poultry estimates are correct, there could be times in the third quarter of this year when Alberta hog prices could climb into the $70 per hundredweight price range.

He says that during 1978 Canadian hog prices will continue to react to American hog and red meat supplies because Canada will again be a net importer of pork and because of the devalued Canadian dollar. The current outlook for U.S. hogs in the second quarter, basis Omaha, is for prices to be in the mid to high $40 per hundredweight range ($62 to $65 per hundredweight dressed equivalent).

"In view of the current low level of pork in storage, and the anticipated further decrease in non-fed cattle slaughter, only consumer resistance to high pork prices will control the price of hogs in the U.S." says Mr. Kraut, "And the same situation exists in Canada."

Canadian Supply Prospects

Interpretations, based on the Canadian January 1 Pigs on Farm Report, indicate a potential for Alberta and Canadian hog marketings to increase by 7 per cent, compared with 1977 levels, over the next six months. "However, since there has been a recent tendency for hog surveys to be on the high side, volume projections should be adjusted downwards", Mr. Kraut says. "On this basis second quarter marketings in Alberta and Canada will probably be 3 to 5 per cent above the 1977 level."

- (cont'd) -

Hog Outlook (cont'd)

Based on first quarter farrowing intentions, marketings in the last half of the year should average around 7 per cent higher than those recorded in the last half of 1977. This would mean Alberta marketings would be around 1.3 million head and Canadian marketings would be around 8.5 million head.

U. S. Supply Prospects

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) reports have been overestimating potential hog marketings in that country, according to Mr. Kraut, but the March 1 USDA indicates a total reversal of previously estimated marketing increases. Interpretations based on this latest survey indicate second quarter U.S. hog marketings will be up by only 2 per cent compared with 1977 levels. The December 1, 1977 survey had indicated a potential increase of 14 per cent in second quarter marketings.

"The main area of concern," says Mr. Kraut, "is whether or not the latest USDA survey has overadjusted so that it is now understating potential marketings. At the present time, it would appear that there will not be a dramatic increase in North American hog production this year. However, this may change. In the meantime the only potentially large hog marketing increase that might occur would be in the fourth quarter of 1978, but even this appears doubtful at this time."

May 8, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SELECTING BULLS FOR REPRODUCTIVE PERFORMANCE

You can avoid the danger of losing part of your calf crop by paying careful attention to the breeding potential of your bulls before the breeding season starts.

Dr. Glenn Coulter, reproductive physiologist with Agriculture Canada's research station at Lethbridge, pointed out at recent seminar on bull selection that a bull's potential to be a satisfactory breeder is frequently overlooked by beef producers in North America. He said that profits accrued after many years of effort to improve performance in a beef herd can be literally wiped out if a bull fails to get enough cows in calf.

Since a bull with the highest performance records is of little use if he does not produce calves, it is extremely important to check bulls in a breeding pasture very carefully. Their ability to perform is influenced by their sex drive, their physical capacity to breed and their ability to produce enough fertile sperm.

Sex Drive

You can check a bull's sex drive by observing him in the breeding pasture. If he is not interested in finding cows in heat, he will probably produce fewer calves than a bull that is interested. Dr. Coulter cited research which showed that conception rates improved from 60 to 80 per cent when bulls served cows three times rather than once in a given heat period.

Physical Capacity

There are a number of deformities and injuries to the reproductive organs that can impair a bull's ability to serve a cow. Unsound feet and legs can also make the act of breeding difficult or painful, with the result that the animal's sex drive may appear to be reduced. Overweight can also interfere with a bull's sex drive and overall physical soundness.

Sperm Production

To be an efficient breeder, a bull must be able to produce a sufficient number of normal live sperm to service a reasonable number of cows. Although the quality of the sperm can be determined by a microscopic examination, such as examination will not necessarily indicate whether or not a particular bull has the ability to serve 20 to 30 cows.

- (cont'd) -

Selecting Bulls for Reproductive Performance (cont'd)

According to Dr. Coulter, considerable research carried out in both Canada and the United States has shown a very high correlation between the circumference of a bull's scrotum and testes and his capacity to produce sperm. Since a bull with abnormally small testes is likely to produce a low level of sperm, Dr. Coulter suggested that beef producers should screen their bulls for low fertility by measuring the circumference of their scrotums with a tape measure. He believes that about 20 per cent of bulls with small testes could probably be eliminated from North American beef herds if only yearling bulls with a scrotum circumference of 32 cm (12.6 inches) and two-year-old bulls with a scrotum circumference of 35 cm (13.75 inches) were kept for breeding. He reported that many bull sale selection committees are now culling bulls which have a scrotum circumference of less than 33 cm (13 inches) at two years of age.

Research findings have also shown that the firmness of the testes is related to sperm production. Bulls which have soft testes tend to produce semen that is low in both the number and the quality of sperm.

Although research results are not yet complete, scientists at the federal research station at Lethbridge have found that a high level of nutrition may have a detrimental effect on the fertility of bulls. If correct, these preliminary results could have implications for the practice of finishing bulls for sale as two year-olds. Not only are fat bulls more likely to have foot and leg problems, but it appears that they may also tend to be less fertile than thinner animals. Research is continuing in this area.

In summary the main factors that influence a bull's effectiveness as a breeder are his sex drive, the physical soundness of his reproductive organs and body structure and the quantity and quality of his sperm.

The first two factors can be evaluated in the breeding pasture or by a careful appraisal of the bull before the breeding season starts. The quantity of semen and its quality can be evaluated by a microscopic examination of the semen, measuring the circumference of the scrotum and testes and by selecting bulls with testes that are uniform and firm.

- (cont'd) -

Selecting Bulls for Reproductive Performance (cont'd)

This kind of appraisal of a bull before the breeding season starts should go a long way towards providing insurance against the loss or delay of a calf crop because of an infertile bull.

May 8, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PREVENTING WATER CONTAMINATION THROUGH YARD HYDRANTS

Be careful you do not accidentally contaminate your yard hydrant or your water well with agricultural chemicals. This can happen if the end of a hose, connected to a yard hydrant that does not have an anti-siphon valve, is immersed in the chemical solution in a field sprayer tank.

Ken Williamson, Alberta Agriculture's engineering technologist at Leduc, explains that because yard hydrants are self-draining, they will start to drain and siphon the solution out of a sprayer tank if they are shut off while the hose is still immersed in the solution.

If this water drains into a gravel bed, it will contaminate the bed. As long as the water table remains below the drainage valve on the hydrant, the contaminated gravel may not do much harm. However, if, and when, the water table rises, the water in the gravel will run back into the hydrant and contaminate the next lot of water that is drawn from it. If the hydrant drains directly into a well pit or a well, the situation will be even more serious.

" The way to prevent this type of contamination problem," says Mr. Williamson, "is to attach the end of the hose that is being used to fill a sprayer tank in such a way that it is above the highest possible water level in the tank." Ideally, you should also have an anti-siphon valve on the hydrant's hose connection, and you should use the two safety measures together. Then if the anti-siphon valve should fail, there would still be no way that the chemical solution could be siphoned back into the hydrant.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

May 8, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FERTILIZING RAPESEED

A 35-bushel per acre crop of rapeseed will remove the following nutrients from the soil, according to Phil Thomas, Alberta Agriculture's rapeseed specialist.

Nutrients	Uptake in Pounds Per Acre		
	Seed	Straw	Total Plant
Nitrogen	70	45	115
Phosphorus	32	18	50
Sulphur	12	7	19
Potassium	12	104	116

Nitrogen

The fact that about 80 per cent of the rapeseed grown in Alberta is grown on summerfallow is no guarantee that these soils will have sufficient nitrogen for optimum crop growth. It is important that the soil on summerfallow fields be tested because rapeseed has a high nitrogen requirement, and about 20 per cent of summerfallow fields in this province are low in nitrogen.

According to Mr. Thomas, not more than 10 pounds of nitrogen per acre should be drilled in with the seed because higher rates can harm germination and lower the plant population, particularly if the soil is dry. When higher rates of nitrogen are applied, they should be broadcast and then incorporated into the soil.

Mr. Thomas reports that good yield increases have been obtained when relatively low rates of nitrogen are sidebanded below the seed. However, much higher yields were obtained when the nitrogen was broadcast.

A top dressing of nitrogen fertilizer may be applied shortly after the crop has been seeded or during the first few weeks after it has emerged if topsoil moisture conditions are favorable and if spring rains are sufficient to carry the nitrogen into the root zone.

- (cont'd) -

Phosphorus

To produce a good yield, rapeseed crops require as much or more phosphorus than wheat or barley crops. It is important that the young plants have sufficient phosphorus early in the growing season because they take it up rapidly in their early growth stage and continue to do so for more than eight weeks. The phosphorus promotes the development of a virgorous rooting system early in the growing season, which, in turn, allows the plants to make better use in the later growing stages of plant nutrients and moisture in the soil. Phosphorus is essential for uniform blooming and good seed production.

As a general rule not more than 20 to 25 pounds of actual phosphorus per acre can be applied with the seed without damaging germination and reducing the plant population, Mr. Thomas says. High rates should be sidebanded or broadcast on the field.

The benefits from a phosphorus fertilizer are usually greatest when nitrogen is also added because a combination of these two nutrients is required for optimum plant growth.

Sulphur

Rapeseed is very sensitive to a sulphur deficiency, which is not uncommon in coarse-textured, grey wooded soils. A proper balance of nitrogen and sulphur is important. When nitrogen is applied in the absence of sulphur, the resultant crop may not flower uniformly, and it may have a reduced seed set (empty seed pods).

Potassium

Rapeseed takes up nearly as much potassium as nitrogen from the soil, according to Mr. Thomas. In addition to increasing plant vigor, potassium is essential for normal plant growth and development.

Mr. Thomas says coarse-textured, well drained, low organic soils are frequently deficient in potassium. A yellow or scorched look to the edges of the more mature leaves on rape plants is a typical sign of a potassium deficiency. When the soil is deficient in potassium, the response of rapeseed to the application of other plant nutrients is restricted, and crop yields are reduced.

- (cont'd) -

Fertilizing Rapeseed (cont'd)

If the level of available potassium in the top six inches of the soil is below 200 pounds per acre, Mr. Thomas suggests using a test strip to find out if potassium needs to be added. Rates of more than 15 pounds of actual potassium per acre should be sidebanded or broadcast because they are too high to be drilled in with the seed.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANDLE RAPESEED CAN BE SOLD TO DEALERS AND ELEVATORS

Since the triple-zero Polish rapeseed variety, Candle, is now fully licensed, farmers who grow it will be able to sell their crops to licensed grain dealers and to elevator companies.

Most Candle rapeseed has already been distributed to the crushing companies and to registered seed growers, but there could still be a limited amount of seed available. Any grower who has seed, but no contract with a crushing company will, of course, be free to sell to anybody he likes. Growers who have received seed from a crusher will, no doubt, have a contract with that company, which will have to be honored in the usual way.

- 30 -

May 8, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VACCINATING FOR IBR

Judging by the number of recent outbreaks of infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR) in cow-calf herds, it seems that some Alberta cattlemen have become complacent about this disease, which manifests itself in many forms, including aborted calves, and have forgotten the ravages it can cause.

It also seems that many farmers and ranchers who have vaccinated their cow herds in recent years feel that they now have permanent protection against IBR. However, according to Alberta Agriculture's extension veterinarian, Dr. Frank Baker, they are mistaken. He says, "All replacement cattle, regardless of whether they were home-reared or purchased, should be vaccinated before the breeding season starts."

He also points out that there may be a need to revaccinate previously vaccinated cows. "This requirement," he explains,"varies from one area of the province to another and even from one farm to another."

So do not take any chances. Consult your veterinarian now about the vaccination requirements of your herd.

- 30 -

May 8, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FERTILIZING PASTURES AND HAY FIELDS

by Andy Birch
Alberta Agriculture's District Agriculturist at Stettler

The response to a fertilizer on pastures and hay fields is greatest when soil moisture conditions are favorable during the growing season, when weed competition is eliminated and when the soil nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus, sulphur and potassium) are in proper balance and supply.

When to Fertilize

The earlier fertilizing is done in the spring the better. Early spring fertilizing and late fall fertilizing both make optimum use of spring moisture to move the nutrients down to the plant roots, and also ensure that the nutrients will be available for early spring growth.

Application Rates

The kind and quantity of fertilizer that should be applied to cultivated pastures and to hay fields is influenced by a number of factors. They include the present nutrient status of the soil, the density and composition of the forage stand, soil moisture conditions, the age and productivity of the forage, management objectives, and the cost of the fertilizer. Unless representative soil test results are available, it is impossible to know exactly how much and what kind of fertilizer should be applied. In addition to knowing how much nitrogen and/or phosphorus is necessary, a soil test will indicate whether soil problems such as acidity and salinity exist, and what corrective measures should be taken.

Without a soil test, only a "guesstimate" can be made as to the kind of nutrients and the levels that should be applied. In the absence of a soil test, the following factors should be considered before purchasing and applying a fertilizer: the amount and kind of fertilizer that was applied last year (at higher rates a residual response may persist for two to three years); the level of forage production last year; present moisture supply; age of the forage stand; the per cent of legume in the mixture and the cost of fertilizing.

- (cont'd) -

Fertilizing Pastures and Hay Fields (cont'd)

When grasses are the predominant species in the mixture, a nitrogen fertilizer is indicated. If, however, a good stand of legumes exists, a phosphate fertilizer is suggested. It is possible to manipulate the relative level of grasses and legumes in the mixture by applying various levels of nitrogen and phosphorus. In grass-legume mixtures containing less than 40 per cent legumes, recommended application rates can vary from 30 to 80 pounds per acre for nitrogen and from 0 to 30 pounds per acre for phosphorus in the dark brown and thin black soil zones of the province. In mixtures where grasses predominate (less than 20 per cent legumes), recommended nitrogen and phosphorus rates for the above areas can vary from 40 to 100 pounds and from 0 to 30 pounds per acre respectively. Because of the wide range in these rates, (therefore cost can be significant) a soil test is recommended.

When forages are seeded on summerfallow, a fertilizer is not usually necessary in the year the stand is established. If a soil test indicates that less than 20 pounds of phosphorus per acre is available, 40 to 50 pounds per acre of 11-48-0 or ll-55-0 should be broadcast on the field. Research at the federal research station at Melfort, Saskatchewan, indicates that nitrogen deficient soils should receive 20 pounds of nitrogen per acre for legume and grass-legume mixtures and 30 pounds of nitrogen per acre for a pure stand of grass.

In established stands (particularly those that are older) which contain more grass than legumes (70 per cent grass), recommended application rates of nitrogen may vary from 30 to 90 pounds per acre . This is where soil testing is helpful.

The application of a fertilizer to native pastures is not recommended as a general practice because native grasses do not respond to a fertilizer as well as cultivated grass do. It is not usually an economical proposition to fertilize native pastures.

May 8, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEEDING RAPESEED

by Phil Thomas
Supervisor of Oilseed Crops with Alberta Agriculture

Good tillage and seeding practices are very important for optimum rapeseed yields.

Most Prairie farmers prefer to plant rapeseed on summerfallow. It is easier to obtain a good seedbed, which is very critical with rapeseed. In this respect cereal crops are not as fussy. Also, rape yields are higher on fallow land because it contains more moisture, more nutrients, fewer weeds and less trash.

A good rape seedbed should be level, uniform, well-packed, weed-free, slightly lumpy and moist within about one inch of the surface. The soil surface should be made up of 30 to 40 per cent fine particles. The remaining particles should be about one inch in size, and there should be a few larger clods to prevent wind erosion. Your shoes should sink just enough to cover the soles. If they sink deeper more packing is necessary. This can be accomplished with harrows or a rod-weeder.

Seeding of rapeseed can be tricky. Because it is a very find seed, it must not be seeded deeper than one half to one inch. To seed deeper is asking for diseases problems.

By the same token moisture has to be present for rapeseed to germinate and to survive during the early seedling stage. Hence, planting depth must ensure that the seed is in contact with firm, moist soil. If the seedbed is dry, packing may help bring the moisture up to the proper seeding depth.

Polish rape varieties require a seeding rate of four to six pounds per acre, while Argentine rape varieties require five to seven pounds. Polish rape has small seeds. There are about 190,000 seeds to the pound. At four pounds to the acre, this results in a seeding rate of eight plants per foot.

- (cont'd) -

Seeding Rapeseed (cont'd)

At that rate strong plants with many pods develop. At higher seeding rates, plant stems will be thin and have fewer and smaller pods. In short a lower, less costly seeding rate will result in higher yields.

Such a low seeding rate is, however, difficult to obtain with older seed drills. They just cannot be adjusted to put out at rates of four to six pounds. Some farmers mix their seed with cracked grain to overcome this problem. Others mix seed and phosphate fertilizers, and run the mixture through the fertilizer attachment.

When flea beetle protection is needed, the granular treatment mixed with the seed will help obtain the proper seeding rate. The granules are the same size as rapeseed.

Double-disc press drills or disc drills followed by packers are considered best for planting rapeseed. Hoe drills are more difficult to adjust for depth, but they give satisfactory results if seeding speed is not too high.

May 8, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BUYING A USED CAR

Spring is the time of the year when farmers and others often decide that they need another car. If you or any member of your family are planning to buy a used car, you would be wise to make sure that it does not have a lien against it before you make your purchase.

Since 19 out of 20 people buy cars on credit, many used cars are not debt-free, and may have a lien against them. A lien may be the result of a conditional sales contract under which the contract holder actually owns the car until it is paid for, or it may be the result of a personal loan in which the car was pledged as collateral. In either case the contract holder has a legal claim on the car until the debt has been paid.

Even if the bill of sale bears the phrase "free of all liens and encumbrances", an existing lien is not wiped out. The phrase provides only minimal protection in that it gives the new owner proof in court that he was deceived by the seller. He may or may not get his money back by going through a time-consuming court process.

The best way to protect yourself against such a possibility is to investigate the car's history before you buy it For a service charge of only 50¢ , the vehicle registration branch of the Department of the Attorney General will check the car, through its serial number, for liens.

The Alberta Unfair Trade Practices Act, which became law in January 1976, takes some of the gamble out of "as is" purchases, such as a used car by requiring the seller to reveal any defects that the buyer could not reasonably discover himself before the sale is concluded. Although a person buying anything "as is" must take reasonable precautions, this act is meant to prevent such things as a car salesmen lying about the history or condition of a car or refraining to mention faults in the car that would have an influence on a buyer's decision to purchase it.

If you feel you have been "ripped off" and have a legitimate claim under the Unfair Trade Practices Act or if you would like more details on any of the above information, you should contact your nearest Alberta Consumer and Corporate Affairs office.

- 30

May 8, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA'S FOOD PRODUCTS BROCHURE

More and more Alberta grocery shoppers are looking for food products that have been produced and processed in this province. In this way they are demonstrating their support of Alberta's agricultural industry.

To help consumers and the food industry to choose Alberta food products, Alberta Agriculture's food marketing branch publishes a brochure, entitled "Alberta's Food Products". This brochure has just been updated and now contains all the brand name food products that are produced and processed in Alberta, and which are sold in provincial retail stores. It also lists the location of each company.

The products are listed by their brand names and grouped according to the commodity section to which they belong. These sections are: Grain Products; Branded Meat Products; Dairy Products; Mushrooms; Sugar, Honey, Candies; Fish Products; Speciality Products; Poultry Products; Vinegar, Salt, Spices; Shortenings and Oils; and Vegetables.

Single copies of "Alberta's Food Products" are available to consumers who would like to use them as a reference when doing their grocery shopping and limited quantities are available to people who are interested in promoting food products produced and processed in Alberta. The latter category includes food displays, group presentations, rural and urban fairs and media promotion.

Further information about the products listed in the brochure and copies of "Alberta's Food Products" can be obtained from the Food Marketing Branch, Third Floor Melton Building 10310 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2C8 (Telephone 427-4036) and from the Food Marketing Branch, 208 Chinook Centre, 6455 Macleod Trail S., Calgary, Alberta, T2H 0K8 (Telephone 253-6252).

- 30 -

May 8, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEAD OF AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING DEVELOPMENT BRANCH APPOINTED

J. W. Clarke, director of Alberta Agriculture's marketing services division, has announced the appointment of Dr. W. W. (Bill) Ballantyne to the position of head of the agricultural processing development branch. He replaces R. P. Dixon who retired recently.

In his new position, Dr. Ballantyne is responsible for implementing programs to increase the quantity and quality of food and agricultural processing in Alberta. He will initiate and administer programs designed to establish or expand the processing of Alberta's food and agricultural products and provide assistance for new product development. He will also be responsible for increasing the food industry's awareness in respect to marketing opportunities and the availability of new technology.

Dr. Ballantyne was born in Saskatchewan and raised on a mixed farm near Red Deer. He graduated from the University of Alberta in 1964 with a B. Sc. (agriculture). Three years later he obtained an M. Sc. (food science) from Michigan state University in the United States. In 1970 he graduated from the same university with a Ph. D. (food science) and an M.B.A. in marketing.

Dr. Ballantyne worked at Canada Packers in Edmonton from 1964 to 1965 as a supervisor of laboratory analysis and quality control. From 1971 to 1972 he was project co-ordinator in Canada Packers' research laboratories in Toronto. Between 1973 and 1978, he held various staff and line positions in the packing house division of Canada Packers in both Edmonton and Toronto.

- 30 -

AL.1.691

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

JUN 6 1978

May 15, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

A New Industry for Alberta 1

Brucellosis Transmission 3

Fleabeetles Expected to be a Problem Again This Year 5

Bees and Pesticides 7

Women's Week at Olds 9

Basic Management Procedures for Beef Cattle 11

Iron Bacteria in Farm Water Supplies 12

4–H Pheasant Project 13

1978 Alberta Pork Queen Contest 14

Home Management Specialist and District Home Economists Appointed 15

Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A NEW INDUSTRY FOR ALBERTA

Riverview Farms, a meat-type goat farm that was started at Smoky Lake last fall, is not only a first for Alberta; it is also a first for Canada.

Part of Riverview Farms' goat flock

The man who started this new industry is Richard Schafer, who came to Alberta two years ago. Prior to that he lived in Ontario, where he had a game bird and hunting club. His reason for choosing Alberta for his new venture is that he belives there is a real demand for this type of meat among the province's many ethnic groups. He felt that it was time that somebody did something about filling this demand.

Mr. Schafer started buying his breeding stock last fall, and now has a flock of about 100 does, all specially selected for their ability to produce high grade meat. He plans to increase his flock to around 300 breeding does over the next few years with the ultimate objective of providing high quality goat's meat on a year-round basis to all the ethnic groups in Alberta. They include people from Spain, Portugal, Italy, Pakistan, Jamaica and South America, all of whom eat goat's meat to celebrate special occassions like Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, weddings, christenings, etc.

(cont'd)

A New Industry for Alberta (cont'd)

Mr. Schafer plans to get two litters a year from his flock through the use of selective breeding and special management techniques. It is apparently possible to have as many as four kids per litter.

A typical meat-type goat

Since meat-type goats are obtained by crossing three or four dairy-type animals in a selective breeding program, Alberta's new industry will provide dairy goat producers with an addition market for their surplus breeding stock.

According to Mr. Schafer, the basic differences between a meat and a dairy goat are that the former has a bigger frame, is heavier and has a built-in ability to grow rapidly. Meat-type goats are marketed when they are only four to 12 weeks old.

"Goats," says Mr. Schafer, "are very easy to raise and are the second oldest domesticated animals (next to the dog) in the world. They are far more resistant to disease than most other domestic animals because they have lived in close proximity to man for many hundreds of years."

Mr. Schafer thinks that many Anglo-Saxons could be missing out on a real delicacy by not trying his chevron gourmet meat!

May 15, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRUCELLOSIS TRANSMISSION

How do cattle become infected with brucellosis? The bacteria which cause brucellosis can enter an animal via its skin, through the mucous membranes of the eyes and teat canals, and through the mouth.

Alberta Agriculture's extension veterinarian, Dr. F. P. Baker, says the mouth is probably the most common route through which the bacteria enter. He points out that a carrier animal sheds many brucellosis bacteria at calving time in her calving discharges even though she delivers a normal, live calf. "If other cattle come in contact with these discharges, the chances of their becoming infected with brucellosis are very high," he says.

The length of time that brucellosis bacteria will survive depends to a great extent upon their environment. In cool, temperate weather, for example, they will live for several weeks on pasture. If they are exposed to direct sunlight, they will die in a few hours, but they can survive almost indefinitely at below freezing temperatures.

Since brucellosis bacteria in the infected tissues in calving discharges, placenta, and fetuses can survive for several months in cool weather, it is easy to see how the disease can be spread from farm to farm by cows contacting infected calves and calving discharges through wire fences and by people moving from one farm to another without taking precautions to prevent this spread. Dr. Baker says cattle buyers, veterinarians, dairy herd improvement technicians, artificial insemination technicians and anyone else working with cattle should never go to a farm without first washing their hands, disinfecting their footwear and changing to clean coveralls.

The main source of infection in a herd is an infected cow. She is particularly dangerous at calving time when, as mentioned above, the calving discharges are usually loaded with brucellosis organisms.

According to Dr. Baker, bulls do not transmit the disease during the act of breeding as many people believe, but they may transmit it via their semen. The fact that the infection is located in their testicles and accessory sex glands, is of extreme importance in artificial insemination.

- (cont'd) -

Brucellosis Transmission (cont'd)

The incubation period of brucellosis can vary all the way from 30 days to eight months, depending upon such things as the degree of exposure, the age of the animal and the stage of gestation.

What can a farmer do to avoid brucellosis?

- Thoroughly investigate the herd of origin of any animal before buying it. In 95 per cent of cases brucellosis enters a herd through the addition of an infected animal.
- Buy only animals that reacted negatively to a blood test 30 days before purchase.
- Isolate new animals, especially heifers for two weeks before they calve, and retest them two weeks after they have calved and before putting them back in the herd. The reason for this recommendation is that there have been instances of heifers failing to react positively to a brucellosis test until eight months after they were added to the herd.
- Be very careful if you plan to purchase a heifer from a previously infected herd.
- Avoid the use of community pastures or see that co-members do not put infected animals or animals of doubtful status into the pasture.
- Insist that anyone who comes in contact with cattle elsewhere and then comes on to your farm puts on disinfected footwear and clean coveralls before coming in contact with your cattle.
- Keep your fences strong and your dogs at home.

Dr. Baker believes that we will be plagued with problem herds for some years to come, but that brucellosis can, and will, be eradicated in Canada. "I am convinced," he says, "that the biggest single factor in determing the success of the present eradication campaign is the diligence and co-operation of the livestock producer."

May 15, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FLEABEETLES EXPECTED TO BE A PROBLEM AGAIN THIS YEAR

Fleabeetles are expected to be a problem again this year in Alberta rape crops.

Michael Dolinski, entomologist and pest control specialist with Alberta Agriculture, says the risk of damage is greatest in those areas of the province which had the beetles last year. However, he strongly recommends that all rape growers check their fields, regardless of the area in which they are located.

Fleabeetles overwinter in field headlands, poplar groves, grass-covered potholes etc., and first feed on volunteer rape. They move into seeded crops as they germinate or as the volunteer rape is used up. If the volunteer rape is cultivated, and the temperature is around 20°C the beetles will fly out of the field and may disperse over a wide range of neighboring rape crops. When this happens, the number in any given field may be too small to do much damage. If, however, the beetles converge on one field, the infestation could be very severe.

According to Mr. Dolinski, damage to seedling crops usually occurs first around the periphery of the fields and is especially noticeable along the edges that are closest to where the 1977 crop was. When the temperature is below 15° to 17° C, the beetles will walk into the field. At higher temperatures they will fly into it.

Fleabeetles are tiny, shiny, black insects that jump vigorously when disturbed. Because they overwinter as adults, they are ready to devour rape seedlings as soon as they emerge. The beetles start by eating small holes in the leaves, and, if unchecked, will gradually enlarge these holes until the plant is completely denuded of foliage.

Mr. Dolinski strongly recommends that rape growers in areas where fleabeetles were a problem last year treat their seed this spring. "Treatment," he says, "costs very little compared with the possibility of a greatly reduced yield or of having no crop at all."

There are two drill box treatment chemicals that can be used to protect rape seedlings against fleabeetles. They are lindane, which is a dust, and Furadan 5G, which is a granular

- (cont'd) -

Fleabeetles Expected to be a Problem Again This Year (cont'd)

formulation. Lindane will protect seedlings until they are four to five days old and can be mixed with benlate to protect them against blackleg as well. Since this disease caused heavy losses in some crops in Saskatchewan last year, it is a good idea to treat seed for blackleg if its origin is unknown.

Furadan G provides excellent fleabeetle control when the seedlings are three to five days old, depending upon weather conditions. Although seedlings that have been treated with Furadan G are not protected against fleabeetles for the first few days, once the protection takes effect it lasts for 10 to 12 days.

Mr. Dolinski stresses that even when rape seed has been treated in the drill box, the crop should be checked every day until it reaches a height of six to eight inches. In the case of seed treated with Furadan G, it may be necessary to spray with a foliage spray when the seedlings first emerge if fleabeetles are numerous because the Furadan does not take effect for three to five days. With both lindane and Furadan G there is always the possibility that the seed treatment will not provide adequate protection if the weather is abnormally dry. Under severe drought conditons, the Furadan granules may not dissolve and release the insecticide.

The products recommended for a foliage spray are Guthion, Furadan Flowable and malathion. Any of these products will do a good job, but it may be necessary to spray the crop several times because they all have a very short residual life.

Mr. Dolinski expects the worst fleabeetle infestations to occur in the northeastern and east-central parts of the province and in the area east of Calgary.

- 30 -

May 15, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEES AND PESTICIDES

Alberta beekeepers are lucky, according to Dr. Ulf Soehngen, supervisor of apiculture with Alberta Agriculture, who reports that beekeepers in a number of states in the western United States have lost up to 60 per cent of their hives in some years from pesticide sprays.

So far only a few minor bee poisoning accidents have occurred in Alberta, and these have been quickly smoothed over, thanks mainly to the spirit of co-operation that has existed between beekeepers and farmers. "Some accidents," says Dr. Soehngen, "are bound to happen, but it is essential that they be kept to the absolute minimum through the continued co-operation and communication of beekeepers and farmers and through up-to-date knowledge. When an accident does occur, let us use it to learn more about the problem that caused it so that we can prevent a repetition in the future."

Following are some typical symptoms of bee poisonings.

- The appearance of a large number of dead bees in front of the hives.
- Fighting in the hives which results in the loss of many bees and often the queen as well.
- The gradual loss of bees and the queen over a period of time. This situation can be caused by slow acting pesticides that are stored with the nectar and honey.
- Regurgitation of honey sack contents.
- Abnormal behaviour, stupefaction and paralysis.

"The severity of bee poisonings is determined by the interaction of many factors, all of which should be given careful consideration by the person intending to set up a spraying program," Dr. Soehngen says. They include the pest population at the time a crop is in bloom compared with the size of the population that would cause irreversible economic damage; whether or not there is a crop nearby which could draw the bees away from the field that is to be sprayed and the timing of the spraying operation. Each crop has a period of maximum attractiveness to bees. For some crops this is in the morning, for others it is in the evening, and for still

- (cont'd) -

Bees and Pesticides (cont'd)

others it is during much of the day. Hence, if spraying is done when the crop is least attractive to bees, bee losses will be greatly reduced.

Bee poisonings are most frequently caused by direct contact with a recently sprayed crop, roadside or patch of bush. However, damage can also be caused by chemical residues on plants that were treated within the past month, contaminated pollen and nectar stored in the hives and contaminated water. Bees collect a large volume of water, especially on hot days when there is no nectar in the fields. They will collect it from sloughs, puddles, a dripping faucet, trough, etc.

Dr. Soehngen believes that the best way to avoid bee losses during the spraying season is for farmers to publicize the area they intend to have sprayed by aircraft and the aereal limits; to invite all beekeepers to register their apiary locations with municipal authorities; to avoid all known apiary sites if possible during spraying; to avoid spraying on windy days (because of drift); to take all possible precautions against spilling the chemical solution when filling or draining truck or aircraft tanks and to be very careful with residues when washing out sprayer tanks.

- 30 -

May 15, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WOMEN'S WEEK AT OLDS

"Life is for Living" is the theme of this year's Alberta Women's Week at Olds College, scheduled for July 10 to 14.

Check in time is 11:30 a.m. which will be followed by lunch. Dr. Grant MacEwan, former lieutenant governor, historian and author, will start the program off with a talk on "Conservation - A Collective Responsibility" during which he will discuss his personal philosophy on this topic.

The morning sessions of the program will feature the following topics: "Being Alive - A Priviledge or a Prison", by Ronna Jevne, psychologist in Calgary; "Communication Skills" by Gordon Colledge, broadcaster in Lethbridge; "Convenience Eating" by Aileen Whitmore, Alberta Agriculture; "It's a Textile World" by Doreen Al Adra, Alberta Agriculture; Kitchen Metrics Can Be Fun" by Priscilla Mewha, Alberta Agriculture; "Little Extras" by Shirley Urquhart, Alberta Agriculture; and " Optimizing Daily Living" by Dr. Doris Badir, dean of the faculty of home economics at the University of Alberta.

The afternoon sessions have been organized to allow participants to choose a topic of specific interest. They will consist of workshops and among the topics will be the following: "Parenting of Teenagers"; "Ladies Know Your Car"; "Camping, Backpacking and Hiking"; etc. Participants will receive nine hours of instruction in the topic of their choice.

While most of the women that attend Alberta Women's Week participate in the whole program, some come for a single day. Afternoon sessions have been planned with this in mind. "Alberta Food Products"; "The Best of You" (personal grooming and fashion); and "This 'n That" (bazaar and craft ideas) are complete topics in themselves.

Mary Dover, O.B.E., C.M., D.U.C. of Midnapore will address the banquet on June 12. Her topic will be the program theme "Life is for Living".

Following the banquet, women's week participants will be entertained by a Calgary theatrical group call the "Roaring 20's".

- (cont'd) -

Women's Week at Olds (cont'd)

The registration fee for women's week is $4 for women and $8 for children up to a maximum of $15 for children per family. Child care service is provided for children from four to 10 years of age.

Accommodation and meals at the college will be $15 per person per day. The charge per child will be $7.50.

The deadline for registering for Alberta Women's Week at Olds is June 23. Further information on the program can be obtained from your district home economist and from Mary Guise at Box 1870, Rocky Mountain House, T0M 1T0. Registration forms will be available during the last week of May from the same people.

- 30 -

May 15, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BASIC MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES FOR BEEF CATTLE

Following are some basic beef cattle management procedures recommended by Nick Chomic, district agriculturist at Vegreville.

- Vaccinate your cows for infectious bovine rhinotracheitis or IBR approximately two to three weeks before you turn out the bull.
- When possible breed your heifers two to three weeks earlier than the cows in the herd. Heifers should be bred according to size; not age. They should weigh at least 700 to 800 pounds.
- Castrate, dehorn and vaccinate calves for blackleg at an early age. The idea time is when they are two to three months old. Calves must not be left unvaccinated until next fall.
- Consider creep feeding your calves.
- Do not overgraze your pasture. When rotating pastures, put cattle on dry feed or rotate the pastures gradually to prevent pulmonary emphysema. Watch your cows carefully for the first few days on the new pasture for signs of bloat, emphysema, etc.
- Remove bulls from the pasture after 60 - 90 days. Calves born after June of the following year will be an economic loss.
- Do not put cows that have not yet calved on pasture because if they have calving problems it will be too late by the time you notice them. Check the cows that are on pasture at least twice a week.

- 30 -

May 15, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IRON BACTERIA IN FARM WATER SUPPLIES

The problem of iron bacteria in farm househeld water supplies is a very common one in Alberta.

Iron bacteria live in water that contains inorganic iron and in water that is in contact with iron. They are found in shallow and deep wells, dugouts and springs. Wells located in swampy land or sloughs and wells subject to high rates of surface water inflow are especially susceptible to infestation by iron bacteria. Iron bacteria can also be introduced to a water supply by the use of contaminated pumping or well-drilling equipment.

According to Andrew Livingstone, engineering technologist with Alberta Agriculture, the most noticeable manifestation of iron bacteria is a brownish-red slime in the toilet tank and a similar slime coating on other bathroom fixtures and on kitchen fixtures. This slime rapidly clogs metal and plastic pipes and has a corrosive effect upon pumps, pressure tanks, galvanized pipes and fittings. In time iron bacteria will reduce the flow rate through, and the pressure within, the supply system, rendering it ineffective. Also, undesirable tastes and odors often develop.

In most cases, iron bacteria can be controlled or eliminated by a simple procedure known as 'shock chlorination'. You can get details of this procedure as it relates to the individual farm househeld water supply sytem from your regional agricultural engineering technologist. To obtain his services, contact your district agriculturist.

- 30 -

May 15, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4—H PHEASANT PROJECT

Approximately 12,000 one-day-old pheasant chicks will be distributed to 550 4-H members throughout Alberta between June 12 and July 10.

The distribution will be made under the new 4-H pheasant project which was initiated for two main reasons. One was to facilitate the replenishment of the depleted pheasant population in Alberta, and the other was to make people more aware of wildlife habitats and wildlife conservation.

Under the project rules each of the 550 4-H members will receive 25 free pheasant chicks, four pounds of free starter feed per bird, a project book describing the care of pheasants, and a free licence. It will be issued by local wildlife officers.

4-H members who were allotted pheasant chicks had to have a chicken brooder and a special outdoor run. The birds will be released when they are 12 to 14 weeks old in the farm yard, if there is sufficient cover, or in an area that does have suitable cover. They will be fed grain after they are released until next spring when it is hoped they will have adapted to their environment sufficiently to start reproducing.

The 4-H division held two workshops earlier this spring for members who were interested in learning how to raise pheasants. They were attended by a total of almost 500 people. A third workshop will be held at Fairview on June 3.

Sandra Wallick, who is in charge of the pheasant project, says the response to it has been beyond all expectations. The original intention was to place 4,000 to 5,000 birds this year, but the figure was more than doubled in view of the large number of requests, and thanks to the co-operation of Jerry Pelchat of the Alberta government's fish and wildlife division. The requests added up to a total of 22,000 birds.

According to Ms. Wallick, plans are already underway to ensure that all the requests for birds received next year will be filled.

May 15, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1978 ALBERTA PORK QUEEN CONTEST

If you are a girl between the ages of 16 and 21 and are from a hog farm (commercial or purebred), you may be eligible to enter the Alberta Pork Queen Contest.

To be eligible to enter this annual event, you must be single and willing to participate in the major swine shows, fairs and exhibitions that will be held in Alberta during the next year. You must also be able to meet the public and have public speaking ability as well as a basic knowledge of the pork industry. If you meet these qualifications and are chosen Alberta pork queen for 1978, you will have an opportunity to travel and meet people throughout the province.

The 1978 pork queen will be chosen on June 17 in Red Deer and will be crowned at the Alberta Pork Congress banquet on June 21 at the Red Deer Lodge. Wilma Leussink of Sundre was last year's pork queen, and Judy Reitsma of Lacombe was the 1976 pork queen.

The Alberta Pork Queen Contest is co-sponsored by the Alberta Swine Breeders' Association and the Alberta Hog Producers' Marketing Board to promote the pork industry in this province.

Entry forms for the competition are available from the Recording Secretary, Alberta Pork Congress, Box 5002, Red Deer (Telephone 343-5334) and from Mrs. Yvonne Matejka, Box 779, Sylvan Lake (Telephone 887-2656).

- 30 -

May 15, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOME MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST AND DISTRICT HOME ECONOMISTS APPOINTED

The head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, Vera Macdonald, has announced the appointment of Jean Wilson to the position of home management specialist. She replaces Patricia Mascaluk who resigned recently to be married.

Miss Wilson is an Edmontonian. She graduated from the University of Alberta in 1970 with a B.Sc. (home economics). She is also a graduate of the University of California where she had a teacher assistantship. She graduated from there in 1973 with an M.Sc. (consumer science).

From 1973 to 1975, Miss Wilson taught home economics at the University of British Columbia. She joined Alberta Agriculture in June of 1975 as regional home management specialist in Calgary. In this position she served the area south of Red Deer.

Mrs. Macdonald has also announced the appointments of Charlene Leeson to the position of district home economist at Grande Prairie and of Janice Warren to the position of district home economist at Hanna.

Miss Leeson will share the Grande Prairie district with home economist Sue McCormack and Miss Warren replaces Donna Sinal who resigned to be married, and now lives in Saudi Arabia

Miss Leeson comes from Ontario and has a B.Sc. (home economics). She graduated in 1977. Prior to her present appointment she was in training at Red Deer.

Miss Warren comes from Alberta and has a B.Sc. (home economics). She also graduated last year. She took her training at Stettler and assisted at the Coronation office.

- 30 -

AGRI-NEWS

May 29, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Good Supply Management Benefits Alberta Broiler Growers 1

Farmers' Market are Good Places to Visit 3

Livestock Manifests Mandatory 5

Brucellosis Test Required for Major Alberta Fairs 6

Farm Machinery Custom Rates 8

Treflan Can Now be Mixed with Liquid Fertilizers 9

What's New in Herbicides? 10

Herbicide - Fertilizer Mixtures for Lawns 11

Feeder's Day Program 12

Be Sensible When Buying Plants 13

District Agriculturist Appointment and Placements 14

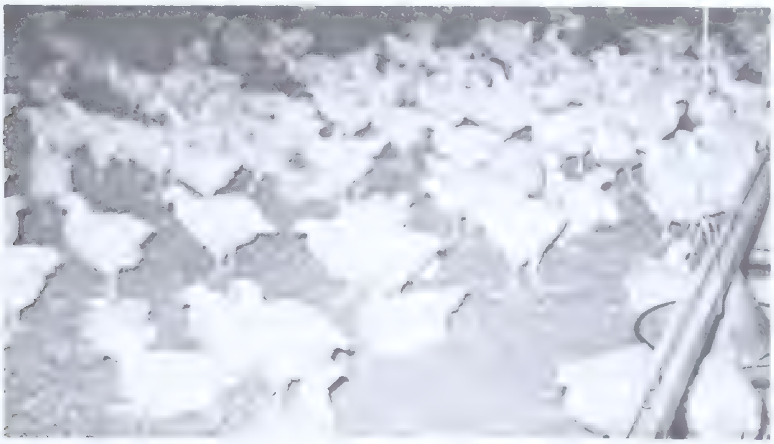
Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

Phone (403) 427-2127

May 29, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GOOD SUPPLY MANAGEMENT BENEFITS ALBERTA BROILER GROWERS



Broiler Chickens Almost Ready for Market

Alberta's 170 broiler growers are all sharing in the fruits of a prosperous industry, thanks to a highly efficient marketing board.

The secret of the success of the Alberta Broiler Growers Marketing Board, and other efficiently run marketing boards, is good supply management, which depends upon an accurate estimate of potential demand. In Alberta the supply and demand are kept in close balance, with quota production being supplemented by permit production to meet peak demand periods.

Like the other provinces in Canada, Alberta has managed to keep broiler chicken production and the control of production in the hands of independent growers. This is no small accomplishment since almost all broiler chickens in every other country in the world are produced by government or integrated companies or under the very strict contractual control of integrated companies. The situation in Alberta, as in the rest of Canada, means that independent broiler growers have been kept in business in spite of the extremely cyclical nature of broiler chicken marketing.

The broiler chicken market in the Alberta market area has expanded dramatically over the past decade, and this expansion has been accompanied by a substantial increase in the number and size of the province's broiler operations.

- (cont'd) -

Good Supply Management Benefits Alberta Broiler Growers (cont'd)

Last year's broiler chicken sales reached a record 52.4 million pounds compared with 27.4 million pounds in 1968. This year's sales are expected to reach 58 million pounds.

According to the secretary-manager of the Alberta Broiler Growers Marketing Board, Don Potter, the necessary increase in production has been provided by substantial production growth on the part of the board's original growers and by the addition of 52 new growers.

The large integrated growers are the only ones who have not increased production. This is shown by the fact that in 1969 these growers controlled just over 42 per cent of the base quota. Today they control only about 23 per cent, and this figure is expected to drop to less than 20 per cent next year.

Mr. Potter says the decrease in the percentage of quota used by the large integrated producers has come about in two ways. One is that they have not increased the size of their operations, and the other is that the largest of these companies has sold a number of its farms to independent broiler growers.

The 52 new growers that have been phased into operation since the board was established in 1966 account for over 40 per cent of the total number of growers, and the smallest of these could market in excess of 90,000 broilers this year if they had accepted the total quota offered to them. This volume is greater than that marketed by the average grower during the early years of the board.

The quota of many of the original growers is approximately double what it was 10 years ago. The growers who started producing after the board was formed have also expanded in proportion to the broiler industry's growth.

The Alberta Broiler Growers Marketing Board regulations state that 35 per cent of all new quota issues must go to new growers. They are accepted from an application list on a first come, first offered basis. According to Mr. Potter, this list is now long enough to last the board for about 150 years!

May 29, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARMERS' MARKET ARE GOOD PLACES TO VISIT

Have you ever wondered what the highway sign depicting a young girl with pigtails, a hoe and a pumpkin is trying to tell you? It is telling you that there is a farmers' market at the town just ahead.

Farmers' Market Highway Sign

Many of Alberta's 63 farmers markets (10 new ones are opening this year) scattered throughout the province have special promotion features. The market in Bon Accord, for example, gave each child a free tomato plant. The first child that brings back a ripe tomato from his or her plant will receive a prize.

Every market is different, catering to the particular interests and needs of its community. In general terms, however, a farmers' market is a place where farmers, gardeners and craftsmen offer their goods for sale. The policy adopted by many markets is "If you grow it or make it, you can sell it".

Stallholders sell such things as firewood, homegrown vegetables, berries, mushrooms, honey, eggs, home baking, cream, chickens, fish, bedding plants, house plants, knitted goods, leather work, ceramics, candles, woven materials, quilts and paintings to mention only some of the items.

In some cases stallholders are prepared to take orders for goods to be delivered later. These might be bulk supplies of perishable items such as corn or beef for the freezer. Some markets hold cooking demonstrations, wood carving displays, and such things as a strawberry festival or a corn roast. Some even have a fishpond for the children.

- (cont'd)

Farmers Market are Good Places to Visit (cont'd)

Part of the appeal of a farmers' market is, of course, the feeling that one just might find an unexpected item or two ——— just what one has been looking for for years!

In essence a farmers' market is a bit of the country ——— a traditional way of doing business in a lively community. So visit a farmers' market soon and take advantage of the warm welcome that awaits you.

For information on the exact location of farmers' markets and the opening dates for those that are new or that operate on a seasonal basis ask for the farmers' market map brochure from a Travel Alberta outlet or contact the Commodity Development Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8 (Telephone 427-4004).

- 30 -

May 29, 1978

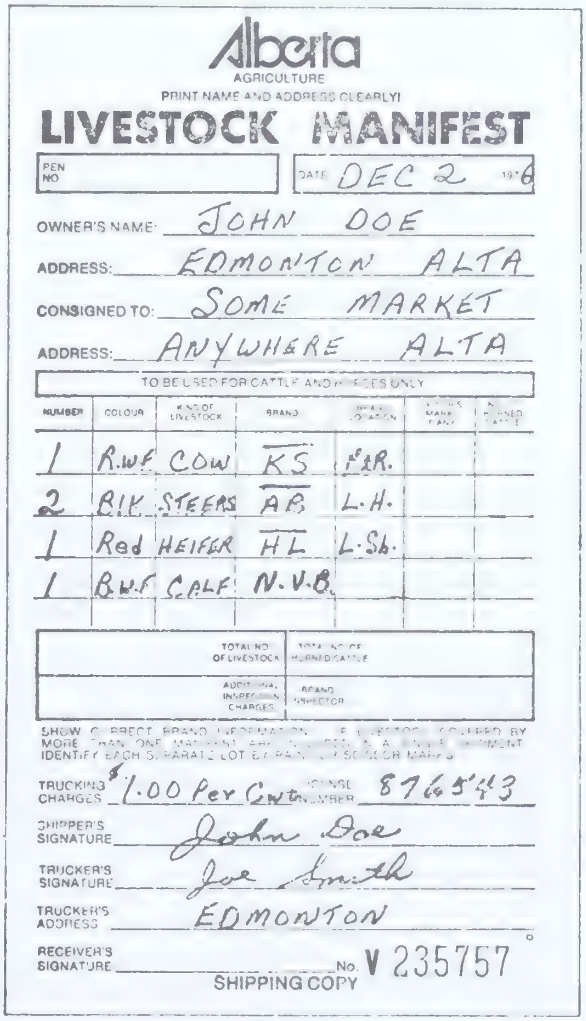
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIVESTOCK MANIFESTS MANDATORY

Livestock producers are reminded that they must have a livestock manifest when transporting or driving cattle or horses from one place to another unless they are being taken to a veterinary clinic or to their own pasture that is not more than 10 miles away.

This regulation covers all cattle and horses being taken to or from a local auction market or community pasture and saddle horses being taken to a weekend show. However, a horse owner who is moving the same horse around the province to various shows, etc. can obtain a special "A" permit which is good for one calendar year. The permit costs $1 and may be obtained from any provincial brand inspector.

Manifests are available from all brand inspectors and from district agriculturists' offices. The manifest should contain the owner's name and address; the destination of the livestock; the number of animals; a complete description of the animals: color, kind (steer, heifer, etc.); the brand and its location and the signature of the owner or his agent. A new manifest is required each time cattle or horses are moved.



Alberta
AGRICULTURE
PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY!

LIVESTOCK MANIFEST

PEN NO

DATE DEC 2 1976

OWNER'S NAME: JOHN DOE

ADDRESS: EDMONTON ALTA

CONSIGNED TO: SOME MARKET

ADDRESS: ANYWHERE ALTA

TO BE USED FOR CATTLE AND HORSES ONLY

NUMBER	COLOUR	KIND OF LIVESTOCK	BRAND	BRAND LOCATION	[illegible] MARK (IF ANY)	NO. HORNED CATTLE
1	R.W.F.	COW	$\overline{KS}$	F&R.		
2	BLK.	STEERS	$\overline{AB}$	L.H.		
1	Red	HEIFER	$\overline{HL}$	L.Sh.		
1	B.W.F.	CALF	N.V.B.			

TOTAL NO. OF LIVESTOCK	TOTAL NO. OF HORNED CATTLE
ADDITIONAL INSPECTION CHARGES	BRAND INSPECTOR

SHOW CORRECT BRAND INFORMATION. IF LIVESTOCK COVERED BY MORE THAN ONE MANIFEST ARE LOADED IN A SINGLE SHIPMENT IDENTIFY EACH SEPARATE LOT BY PAINT OR SCISSOR MARKS

TRUCKING CHARGES $1.00 Per Cwt. LICENSE NUMBER 876543

SHIPPER'S SIGNATURE John Doe

TRUCKER'S SIGNATURE Joe Smith

TRUCKER'S ADDRESS EDMONTON

RECEIVER'S SIGNATURE ______ No. V 235757

SHIPPING COPY

Failure to comply with the above regulation could result in a charge plus a fine. Further information can be obtained from your nearest brand office.

- 30 -

May 29, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRUCELLOSIS TEST REQUIRED FOR MAJOR ALBERTA FAIRS

This year all class A and B fairs in Alberta require proof of a negative reaction to a brucellosis test before cattle will be permitted on the premisses.

Class A and B fairs include those held at Grande Prairie, Manning, Vermilion, Vegreville, Camrose, Edmonton, Stettler, Red Deer, Olds, Calgary, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Lloydminster. A federal veterinarian will be at each of these fairs, and he will request a brucellosis certificate for all cattle that are more than six months old.

The following categories of cattle do not require a brucellosis certificate.

- Animals under six month of age
- Animals that were vaccinated for brucellosis under veterinary supervision and are less than 18 months old
- Steers
- Spayed Heifers
- Animals that come from a brucellosis-free listed herd.

Brucellosis test certificates are also required for all female breeding cattle over six months old that are taken to 4-H shows and rallies.

A brucellosis blood test certificate is valid for 60 days from the date that the test was done. If an animal is entered in a show more than 60 days after it was tested, it must be re-tested and issued with a new certificate. The blood tests can be done by local veterinarians and must be paid for by the owner. They should be done at least 10 days before the show to allow time for the return of a certificate.

According to federal health of animals veterinarians, there are about 30 brucellosis-free listed herds in Alberta at the present time. To qualify for this status, a herd must have been free of brucellosis for two successive blood tests, 90 days apart, and remain free of the infection in subsequent annual tests. Such herds usually produce high quality seed stock animals which

- (cont'd) -

Brucellosis Test Required for Major Alberta Fairs (cont'd)

are exported on a regular basis to other parts of Canada and to the United States.

Alberta Agriculture's livestock supervisor, Ross Gould, says that "We in Alberta and Canada have the ability to erradicate brucellosis from cattle herds if we follow a rigorous testing program." He points out that the number of herds that are in quarantine for brucellosis in Alberta is being reduced through constant vigilance and testing.

"Although testing may seem inconvenient and possibly expensive, the present brucellosis blood testing program is necessary to prevent the spread of this costly disease and to maintain Alberta's reputation as a source of high quality, healthy breeding stock," Mr. Gould says.

- 30 -

May 29, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM MACHINERY CUSTOM RATES

How much should I pay for farm custom work? How much should I charge?

The recently published "1978 Farm Machinery Costs as a Guide to Custom Rates" will help to answer these questions. It follows much the same format as previous guides in that it shows the build-up of individual cost items for different sized machines used in major field and livestock operation.

It also includes labor and profit estimates so that the user can identify those items which he wishes to cover in a fair custom charge. The fixed costs of depreciation, investment and housing are the main items to consider here. A good neighbor custom charge, on the other hand, may be based on such variable costs as fuel, repairs and labor, while the specialist custom operator will want to include all fixed costs, all variable costs and a profit allowance to cover his risk and management. The guide includes a listing of average custom rates charged by specialist operators in Alberta last year. The information was collected through the Agricultural Input Monitoring System, which continuously surveys a wide range of farm input costs.

In addition to estimated costs, the going market rate for custom work is useful for arriving at a fair price to charge for custom work.

Since farm situations often differ from the typical operations listed in the guide, worksheets are provided to enable the user to calculate his own costs on the basis of his own experience. These can be used as a substitute for standard assumptions.

Copies of the "1978 Farm Machinery Costs as a Guide to Custom Rates" can be obtained from the publications office, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

May 29, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TREFLAN CAN NOW BE MIXED WITH LIQUID FERTILIZERS

Mixing Treflan with liquid nitrogen fertilizers has been approved under the federal Pest Control Products Act. This means that these products can now be legally mixed together.

Treflan product labels now state that Treflan can be mixed with liquid nitrogen fertilizers like 28-0-0, and that the mixture may be soil-incorporated and used as a preplant application or it may be soil-incorporated and used as a postplant application.

The new registration also states that Treflan may be mixed with a liquid fertilizer and Avadex BW and used as a soil-incorporated postplant application for wheat and barley crops.

The manager of Elanco Products' agricultural chemicals research, Dr. Jon Anderson, says that when Treflan is to be used with a liquid fertilizer, it should be tested with a small amount of the fertilizer for compatibility before it is mixed in the tank.

To do this test, put one pint of liquid fertilizer into a quart jar and add two teaspoonfuls of Treflan. Then put the top on the jar and shake it well. Watch the mixture for several seconds, and check it again in 30 minutes. If the ingredients do not separate out, the mixture may be used. If, however, the ingredients do separate or the mixture foams or gets very thick or syrupy, do not use it.

If the products are compatible, put the Treflan directly into the liquid fertilizer and mix the two thoroughly. Apply the mixture as soon as possible, and agitate it constantly until the application has been completed. Be sure that you apply the mixture uniformly to the soil surface by following normal Treflan incorporation procedures.

Dr. Anderson stressed the importance of following all Treflan label recommendations regarding approved crops rates per acre, incorporation, special instructions, cautions and special precautions.

Further information can be obtained from Dr. Jon Anderson, Manager, Agricultural Chemicals Research, Elanco Products, Suite 205, 1345 Pembina Highway, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3T 2B6.

May 29, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHAT'S NEW IN HERBICIDES?

With the seemingly never-ending influx of new weeds on the agricultural scene each year, new and different herbicides play an increasingly important role, says Glen Smyth, assistant agricultural fieldman for the municipal district of Kneehill.

Tordon 202C manufactured by Dow Chemical of Canada Ltd. is registered for controlling 12 weed species in barley and wheat. Among them are redroot pigweed, stinkweed, wild mustard, wild buckwheat and the top growth of Canada and perennial sow thistle. The price for Tordon 202C will likely be in the $1 to $1.60 range.

Sencor sold by Chemagro is registered for controlling such weeds as chickweed, hemp nettle, tartary buckwheat, volunteer rape, wild mustard and lamb's quarters, to mention a few in barley, except Klondike barley. Sencor will not control wild buckwheat. The price range for Sencor will likely be $3 to $4 per acre.

Mataven, a new wild oat chemical from Shell has again been given temporary registration for use on wheat, except Selkirk. Mataven is similar to Endaven, but it controls small wild oats better and does not rely on crop competition. Mataven will control wild oats in the three to six-leaf stage and will likely be in the $9 per acre and up range.

Treflan has also been given registration for '78. Only liquid treflan, not the granular form, should be used for the post-planting control of green foxtail in wheat and barley.

Torch, while not a new chemical, is now registered for controlling wild mustard, lamb's quarters, and stinkweed in wheat, barley and oats.

Avenge is now registered for the control of wild oats in barley and Neepawa and Glenlea wheat.

A widely used mixture of liquid nitrogen fertilizer and Treflan or Treflan plus Avadex BW has been given full registration this year for controlling green foxtail and wild oats in wheat and barley.

May 29, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HERBICIDE – FERTILIZER MIXTURES FOR LAWNS

The use of fertilizer and herbicide mixtures for lawns is becoming increasingly popular in Alberta.

According to an official of Alberta Agriculture's weed control branch, most of these mixtures contain a complete fertilizer and herbicides such as 2, 4-D, mecoprop and dicamba. Although their granular form eliminates any possible injury to non-target plants through spray drift, there are some precautions that should be taken:

- Do not treat a newly planted lawn until it has been mown three or more times.
- Use a drop lawn spreader only to apply them. Rotary spreaders can easily scatter the granules on to non-target areas. Do not apply these products by hand.
- Make two applications at right angles to each other, applying half the recommended rate each time. This practice will given an even distribution.
- Avoid overlapping when applying the mixture, particularly in sculptured lawn areas. Remember the amount applied near the pivot of the arc made by the spreader can be five to 10 times that applied on the outside edges.
- Do not spread a mixture containing dicamba within the dripline of shade trees or ornamental shrubs because you could injure these trees.
- Do not use a fertilizer and herbicide mixture on a vegetable or flower garden. These products are intended only for lawns.

- 30 -

May 29, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEEDERS' DAY PROGRAM

The University of Alberta's 57th annual Feeders' Day will be held at the Grande Prairie regional college in Grande Prairie on June 28.

The format will be similar to those of the last couple of years except that it will provide for more interaction among members of the university's department of animal science and livestock producers. There will be fewer presentations than in past years, but all staff members will be on hand for consultations with producers. Dr. Roy Berg, chairman of the department of animal science, is the co-ordinator.

Following is a list of the presentations:

"Protein Sources for Pigs" by Dr. W. C. Sauer; "Rapeseed Meal for Ruminants" by Dr. C. M. Grieve; "Roughages for Wintering Beef Cows" by Dr. G. W. Mathison; "Beef Cattle Breeding" by Dr. R. T. Berg; "Are You Making the Most of the Beef Carcass Grading System" by Dr. M. A. Price and "Pre-slaughter Stress and Meat Quality" by Dr. J. R. Thompson. There will also be a panel discussion and a question period with Dr. G. R. Whenham of Alberta Agriculture and other specialists.

The 1978 Feeders' Day Proceedings, plus additional papers, will be published in a special edition of the "Agriculture and Forestry Bulletin", which will be available after Feeders' Day from the Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta, 82 Avenue and 112 Street, Edmonton, T6G 2G4 (Telephone Number 432-3029).

- 30 -

May 29, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BE SENSIBLE WHEN BUYING PLANTS

If you are planning to buy shrubs or trees or any other garden plants that are advertised nationally in newspapers, magazines or brochures, check first with the "Alberta Horticultural Guide" to make sure they are hardy enough to grow here. An alternative would be to check with your district extension office.

Scientists at the federal research station at Morden, Manitoba, say that many of the plants advertised nationally are not suitable for growing on the Prairies. Even when they are totally unsuited to Prairie climatic conditions, people often buy them because of "bargain" prices, only to be disappointed when they die during a harsh winter.

Local Prairie nurseries whose operators are in a position to make reliable recommendations and to provide guarantees are the best places to buy your plants and trees.

The Morden scientists say the following commonly-advertised shrubs and trees are not recommended for Prairie gardens: Japanese maple, crimson king maple, red maple, tree of heaven, rose of Sharon, flowering dogwood, ginkgo, honeylocust, privet, Austrian pine, Lombardy poplar, Babylon weeping willow, smoke tree, silver fir, blue hydrangea, American holly, rhododendrons, Japanese yew and tender grapes.

The scientists at Morden are presently carrying out regional trials across the Prairies to determine the suitability of a wide range of plants to climatic conditions in this part of the country.

- 30 -

May 29, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST APPOINTMENT AND PLACEMENTS

Ralph Berkan, associate director of Alberta Agriculture's extension division has announced the appointment of Fred de Mille to the position of co-district agriculturist at High Prairie.

Mr. de Mille is a native Albertan. He received his B.S.A. from Montana State University in 1965 and then obtained an M.S.A. (animal science) from the University of Guelph in Ontario. Since then he has been a district agriculturist in Newfoundland and has worked for several agri-business firms. At the High Prairie office, he will be working with Frank Graves.

District Agriculturists-In-Training

The following district agriculturists-in-training have been placed in the extension offices listed below. They are being prepared to fill vacancies that occur as a result of normal staff turnover.

David Cubbon, a 1977 graduate of the University of Saskatchewan, has been placed in the Taber district office. He will be training with the senior district agriculturist, Jerry Jones.

Mr. Cubbon majored in animal science with a minor in extension. Prior to joining Alberta Agriculture he worked with the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool on their demonstration farm.

Brian Wilson has been appointed district agriculturist-in-training at Valleyview. He will be training with John Tackaberry.

Mr. Wilson is a 1978 graduate of the University of Manitoba with a major in animal science. He is from a farm in the Durban area of Manitoba.

Kirsty Ross is the new district agriculturist-in-training at the High River district office.

She is a 1978 graduate of the University of Manitoba and comes from Stonewall, Manitoba. While in Manitoba she was an active participate in 4-H. Ms. Ross has had summer

- (cont'd) -

District Agriculturist Appointment and Placements (cont'd)

employment as a tour guide at the Manitoba Agricultural Museum and as an assistant communications specialist with the Manitoba Department of Agriculture.

Ken Hughes, a native of Longview, Alberta, is now training with district agriculturist Harvey Yoder at the Lac La Biche district office.

Mr. Hughes graduated from the University of Alberta in 1978, and is a range management specialist. He worked during his summers as a research assistant and as a resource agrologist for Alberta Energy and Natural Resources.

David Plett, a 1978 graduate of the University of Manitoba, has been placed in the Sedgewick district office. He will be training with district agriculturist Glen Werner.

Mr. Plett specialized in animal science and economics. His summer employment included work at the Canada Agriculture Research Station at Morden, Manitoba.

- 30 -

AGRI-NEWS

AL.1.691

June 5, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Water Well Recovery Program 1

Warbles in Feedlot Cattle 2

Fleabeetles Situation 4

Soil Science Congress 5

Gramoxone and Reported Toxicity to Human Beings 7

The Cost of Weeds in Crop Production 9

"Gro-Safe" 11

Turning the Tables on Some Common Garden Weeds 12

Plant Disease Specialist Appointed in Peace Region 13

Assistant Farmers' Advocate Appointed 14

Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

June 5, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WATER WELL RECOVERY PROGRAM

Alberta's agriculture minister, Marvin Moore, recently announced the introduction of a Water Well Recovery Program to assist landowners who have encountered water well problems that may have been caused by seismic activity in the area. The problems include disruption of water service through pollution of water supplies, silting, sedimentation and, in some instances, the total disruption of water sources.

A landowner who experiences a decrease in his water supply, which he feels is related to seismic activity, should, if possible, contact the geophysical company to negotiate a settlement. In cases where a farmer is unaware of the geophysical company, or cannot negotiate a settlement, he should refer the matter to Alberta Energy and Natural Resources. The geophysical branch of that department will examine the situation, conduct an on-site inspection and determine the amount of compensation which the company should pay.

In cases where the geophysical branch, the farmer and the company cannot come to an agreement as to the nature of the problem and its cause, the matter will be referred to a separate committee for review. That committee, composed of representatives from Alberta Agriculture, Alberta Energy and Natural Resources, Alberta Environment and two farmer members of the local agricultural development committee in the area where the complainant resides, will review the matter and make recommendations to the Minister of Agriculture regarding assistance. Compensation will then be paid directly to the landowner.

The Water Well Recovery Program is retroactive to January 1, 1976.

Application forms are now available from district agriculturists and from the Engineering and Rural Services Divison, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2G8.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS
hone (403) 427-2127

June 5, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WARBLES IN FEEDLOT CATTLE

by Ross Gould
Livestock Supervisor with Alberta Agriculture

The fact that warbles can be effectively controlled in feedlot cattle by a thorough fall treatment program has been dramatically demonstrated in Alberta during the last three months.

Inspections at Alberta packing plants in the spring of 1977 showed that nearly 65,000 warble infested carcasses were marketed from February through May of that year. Many of these animals came from feedlot owners who had bought them in the fall of 1976 as feeders. At that time it was very difficult to tell whether they had been treated for warbles.

By the spring of 1977 the damage had been done, and the packers were not at all happy about all the carcasses that had to be trimmed to remove the grubs. Packers report that the trimming required in heavily infested carcasses can result in discounts from meat wholesalers of as high as $30 or more per animal.

Last fall one of these Alberta feedlot operators decided, after visits from his local warble control officer and strong suggestions from his packer buyers, to treat all the feeder cattle that arrived at his feedlot. This spring's results were impressive to say the least!

The 1977 inspections showed 961 infested cattle were sold in February, March and April. During the same period this year only 69 animals were found to have warbles even though the feedlot owner sold one and a half times as many cattle as he sold in 1977. This year's percentage of infested cattle was only about one per cent compared with 26 per cent in 1977. Another important factor was that none of the 69 infested carcasses had more than three grubs, while over half of the 961 sold in 1977 had four or more grubs.

Unfortunately not all Alberta feeders have done quite such a good job of treating. Packers reported at a recent meeting with government officials that the situation has improved in some parts of the province, but in others the cattle are carrying as many grubs as last year.

- (cont'd) -

Warbles In Feedlot Cattle (cont'd)

The packing plant operators reported that this year their buyers are putting more emphasis on the need to supply grub-free cattle when they visit feedlots. There is no doubt that grub-free cattle are more attractive to both the packer and the retailer.

The experience of the feedlot owner described above should demonstrate that feeders can ensure a minimum of infested carcasses going to market by adopting a thorough fall warble treatment program. A minimum of infested carcasses should put them in a better position to bargain with the packers for top prices and help us to safeguard Alberta's reputation as a source of the highest quality beef.

- 30 -

June 5, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FLEABEETLE SITUATION

Alberta Agriculture's pest control specialist and entomologist, Michael Dolinski, urges farmers not to overreact to the light fleabeetle infestations that are present in most rape crops this year.

He says that if an average of only one or two holes are present in plants, there is no need to spray. As long as the temperature remains below about 18°C, fleabeetle damage will be mainly confined to the edges of rape fields because the beetles are only able to walk at these temperatures. The temperature must be at least 18°C before they can fly and invade the whole crop.

Spraying is necessary when an average of 20 to 25 per cent of the leaf area of rape plants has been eaten by the beetles. Again most of this damage will be found along the edges of rape fields as long as the temperature remains below 18°C. Hence, these are the only areas that will have to be sprayed.

Fleabeetles are tiny, shiny, black insects that jump vigorously when disturbed. Because they overwinter as adults, they are ready to devour rape seedlings as soon as they emerge. The beetles start by eating small holes in the leaves, and, if unchecked, will gradually enlarge these holes until the plant is completely denuded of foliage.

The products recommended for controlling fleabeetles in rape crops are Guthion, Furadan Flowable and Malathion. The recommended rate for Guthion is one ounce of active ingredient per acre (cost about 50¢ per acre); for Furadan the rate is one to two ounces active ingredient per acre (cost 55¢ to $1 per acre) and the rate for Malthion is eight ounces of active ingredient per acre (cost $1.25 per acre).

Since Guthion and Furadan are both extremely toxic to the applicator, label direction should be followed very carefully. Malthion is a safer product to use from the point of view of the applicator, but it will only give really good control when the temperature is above 20°C. Below this temperature results are likely to be variable.

- 30 -

June 5, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOIL SCIENCE CONGRESS

More than 2,000 delegates from 40 countries will attend the Eleventh Congress of the International Society of Soil Science (ISSS) at the University of Alberta from June 19-27.

This is the first time the congress, which was organized in 1924, has been held in Canada. It is usually held every four years, and the last one was held in Moscow. The 1982 congress is scheduled for India.

The theme of this year's congress is optimum soil utilization systems under differing climatic conditions. Approximately 50 invited papers will be given during the plenary sessions and symposia and about 350 volunteered papers will be presented.

The congress topics will cover techniques for estimating available nutrients in soils, microscopy of soil materials, soil physics and soil engineering, assessment of soil quality for food and fibre production, soil distribution and man and the utilization of urban and industrial wastes in crop production.

Dr. C. F. Bentley, president of the Eleventh ISSS and professor of soil science at the University of Alberta, will open the congress. His topic will be Canada's agricultural land resources and the world food problem.

Other speakers at the plenary sessions will include O. V. Makeev, Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R.; K. W. Flach, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.; R. J. F. Tavernier, State University, Ghent, Belgium; G. W. Cooke, Agricultural Research Council, London, England and F. R. Moormann, Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Ibadan, Nigeria.

The concluding addresses will be given by Rudy Dudal of Rome who is the secretary-general of the International Society of Soil Science and D. J. Greenland of the University of Reading, Reading, England.

- (cont'd) -

Soil Science Congress (cont'd)

Proceedings at the congress will be simultaneously translated into English, French and German.

Among the displays in the Education Gymnasium on campus will be soil monoliths, soil testing techniques, colored slides illustrating Canadian soils and landscapes and various publications on soil management, soil surveys and problem soils. The displays will be open to the general public at no charge.

There will also be nine museumobile units, which belong to the Devonian Group of Charitable Foundations, and two National Museum museumobile displays entitled "Atlantic Canada" and "Canada North".

The Devonian group displays will include exhibits showing the history of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, wildlife and wildlife conservation, minerology, historical "old toys" and vanishing cultures –– a display depicting South American Indians, bushmen and other aboriginal peoples.

The Devonian Group museumobile units will be situated in the parking lot of the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, and the National Museum displays will be in the parking lot adjacent to the Education Gymnasium on 114 Street and 87 Avenue.

They will be open to the public from June 19 to 23 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. On the weekend of June 24 and 25, they will be open from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Still another feature at the congress will be a 30-minute, non-technical National Film Board production entitled "The Soils of Canada". It and a variety of other soil science films will be held in the Jubilee Auditorium. The films are also free.

- 30 -

June 5, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAMOXONE AND REPORTED TOXICITY TO HUMAN BEINGS

Recent newspaper publicity about the spraying of marijuana fields in Mexico with the herbicide Gramoxone, and the possible adverse affects on the user of the end product, has once again raised the question of the safety of Gramoxone.

According to Arnold Stearman of Alberta Agriculture's weed control branch, it is one of the most toxic of all herbicides in common use today. He points out that it is rated with many insecticides and fungicides from the point of view of toxicity, and for this reason the safety precautions outlined on the label must be carefully followed.

The greatest hazard connected with the use of Gramoxone is probably the possibility of accidentally inhaling the spray mist. If this happens the detrimental effects are irreversible. Mr. Stearman says their severity depends upon the degree of exposure.

Luckily there is one very obvious symptom of exposure to Gramoxone spray mist. It is profuse bleeding from the nose, and it occurs after very limited exposure. This symptom should be taken as a warning that a proper face mask is required.

Since Gramoxone is relatively toxic if accidentally swallowed, any surplus should always be stored in its original, properly labelled container, as is the case with all other pesticides. It should never be stored in an old beverage bottle or similar container.

A considerable amount of data, based upon extensive experience accumulated during the handling of concentrated Gramoxone formulations in manufacturing and formulating plants, suggest the following are typical of the detrimental effects caused by Gramoxone.

- Slower healing of abrasions and wounds if they are contaminated with Gramoxone.
- Skin irritation if concentrated material is spilled on the skin and not washed off.

- (cont'd) -

Gramoxone and Reported Toxicity to Human Beings (cont'd)

- Loss of finger nails if the concentrated material contacts the tender skin around the nails and is not washed off.
- Severe irritation of the eyes if they are splashed with a Gramoxone solution.

"Under no circumstances," says Mr. Stearman, "should Gramoxone, or any other agriculture chemical for that matter, be handled carelessly. A mask, goggles, rubber gloves and protective clothing should all be worn when recommended. Above all, users should exercise a high degree of personal cleanliness. The use of a good chemical should not have to be restricted because people choose not to exercise the most elementary of safety precautions."

- 30 -

CORRECTION

Under the section "What can a farmer do to avoid brucellosis" (carried in the May 15 issue of 'Agri-News' under the title of "Brucellosis Transmission") one precaution was missed out. It is "Isolate all additions to a herd even though they passed the brucellosis test for a minimum of 30 days, and then retest them before putting them with the herd."

June 5, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE COST OF WEEDS IN CROP PRODUCTION

Weeds!! If you have them they are going to cost you money one way or another. If you are fortunate enough to be infested with some of the easily killed weeds such as the mustards, stinkweeds, pigweeds, thistles and hemp nettles, then it's going to cost you from $1.50 to $2 per acre to spray for these, using 2-4 D or MCP formulas.

If these weeds are not killed by spraying they could take one-quarter to one-third of your potential crop yield as well as most of the fertilizer you apply to the crop. This loss could be up to 20 bushels per acre, and with barley selling at a $1.50 per bushel, this amounts to $30 per acre.

If your weed problem is of a more serious nature featuring such toughies as smartweed, lady's thumb, corn spurry, chickweed or buckwheat, either wild or tartary, then you are going to have to be much more serious with your spraying program. To get these weeds you are going to have to spend $3 to $5 per acre for a MCP-Lorox mix, Banvel, Buctril or maybe Sencor on your barley crop. If you think this is too much to spend on weed control, you could leave them alone and lose another one-third to two-thirds of your crop, depending on the infestation. This could be a loss of up to $50 an acre.

Another expense you will have if you are going to use the wettable powders and the high volumes of water needed to kill the tough weeds is that of remodelling your old sprayer. You start with a high volume pump for adequate tank agitation when spraying 10 gallons of water per acre and probably a new set of sprayer nozzles, and maybe larger hoses and fittings so you have no restrictions between the pump and sprayer nozzles. This conversion can cost up to $300 or you could buy a new sprayer for $2,000.

So now with a cost of around $6 per acre, and with some help from the weather, you may have 75 to 80 per cent control of the broad leaf weeds, but what about those wild oats?

- (cont'd) -

The Cost of Weeds in Crop Production (cont'd)

Well, for a cost of $6 to $8 per acre, you can use a soil incorporated herbicide that may give 50 to 90 per cent control if the weather is right. If it stays very dry, you may be throwing your money away; or if you do a poor job of incorporating it, the results may be disappointing. This is an expensive operation as two or three extra trips over the field are needed and this could leave your fields susceptible to erosion, either by wind or rain. This operation would probably cost $3 or $4 an acre. An alternative to incorporating the herbicide in the soil is to use a post-emergence spray when the wild oats are in the two to five-leaf stage. These sprays cost from $6 to $10 per acre, depending on which you choose. With favorable weather you could expect no better than 80 to 90 per cent control.

You may throw up your hands in despair after trying some of these sprays, especially if the weather has not co-operated, and you end up with a field full of weeds after spending a large amount of money on sprays. As a last resort you may cut the crop as green feed or silage to kill the weeds. If you go with green feed you are going to lose the whole thing as far as grain goes, and you will still need the weather to co-operate or you will end up with something no better than straw.

If you are set up for silage and can use it, then this may be a better choice. However, the crop will have to be cut before the wild oats are headed or some will drop out and reseed the field. Putting up silage is a labor and machinery intensive operation with the costs estimated at $25 to $30 per acre.

So no matter how you treat them or handle them, weeds are going to cost you money. The only thing to do is to try for maximum yields with proper farming practice and fertilizer, and then spend whatever you must to control the weeds because if you don't, they will take over the crop and you lose all your profit.

by Richard Goodwin
of Ponoka, who won Alberta Agriculture's weed control essay

June 5, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"GRO–SAFE"

Do not wait for an accident. Order some activated charcoal now.

According to Arnold Stearman of Alberta Agriculture's weed control branch, activated charcoal will de-activate most, if not all, commonly used herbicides.

Mr. Stearman believes that anyone who uses herbicides on a large scale should keep a supply of activated charcoal on hand to clean up an accidental spill or the misapplication of a herbicide.

"Gro-Safe" is one trade name for activated charcoal. As far as Mr. Stearman knows "Gro-Safe" has no competing product in Alberta and is available only from Kem-San (Western) Ltd., Box 5264, Station E, Edmonton, T5P 4C5, (Telephone 484-8185).

- 30 -

June 5, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TURNING THE TABLES ON SOME COMMON GARDEN WEEDS

by Gerry Wheeler
of Alberta Agriculture's Plant Industry Laboratory

Redroot pigweed, lamb's quarters, purslane, common chickweed, shepherd's purse and stinging nettles have more in common than being troublesome weeds in and around the garden. They are all edible and can be used as potherbs, and, with the exception of stinging nettles, they can also be used as salad greens. Because of its stinging hairs, nettles need to be cooked before they are eaten.

Although the above plants can be cooked and eaten like spinach, I suspect that many people will find common chickweed too bland to be eaten alone. It needs the addition of a stronger flavored plant such as shepherd's purse or pepper grass to make it more palatable.

When cooking chickweed with other greens it is better to start cooking the other greens alone and to add the chickweed when the others are almost done. Chickweed is a very tender plant and only requires about two minutes cooking time.

A good place to start experimenting would be with one part shepherd's purse to two parts chickweed, but only you can decide what the exact proportions should be, or, for that matter, whether you prefer any of these "wild" greens to spinach or beet tops. When weeds are used as potherbs or salad greens, only the tender young shoots should be used as these are the tastiest and most nutritious parts of the plants.

What is the nutritional quality of these plants? With the exception of purslane, all are equal to, or richer than, spinach with respect to most nutrients and vitamins. Spinach, which is relatively high in iron content, has two to three times as much iron as these plants, except for purslane and redroot pigweed which have as much iron as spinach. One unusual feature of stinging nettles is their exceptionally high protein content. On a dry weight basis, it can be as high as 40 per cent. This makes stinging nettles higher in protein content than most commercial livestock feeds. Curing nettles for hay de-activates the stinging hairs, thereby enabling them to be used as an excellent livestock feed.

- 30 -

June 5, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLANT DISEASE SPECIALIST APPOINTED IN PEACE REGION

The Minister of Agriculture, Marvin Moore, has announced the appointment of Dr John A. Muir to the position of plant pathologist in the recently completed regional diagnostic laboratory located in the Provincial Building at Fairview.

As the first provincial plant disease specialist stationed in the Peace Region, Dr. Muir will be responsible for the diagnosis of crop production problems, particularly those caused by diseases, and for farm-oriented research on major crop diseases in the area.

Until now diseased plant samples have been mailed to the Plant Industry Laboratory in Edmonton. District agriculturists and agricultural fieldmen in the region will soon be notified to have local crop problems diagnosed at Fairview. A follow-up field investigation is now more readily available from Fairview than was the case from Edmonton.

Dr. Muir received all of his education in the West. His professional degrees are from the University of British Columbia and the University of California at Berkeley. He was a research officer with Environment Canada in Edmonton for 10 years, and taught biology and ecology courses at North Island College in Courtenay, B.C. for the last two years. He will have the opportunity to reach a plant pathology course at Fairview College.

This summer Dr. Muir will be involved in a disease survey of barley and rape crops in the Peace region which is being conducted by Dr. John Davidson of the Agriculture Canada Research Station at Beaverlodge.

Dr. Muir, his wife Vivian, and a young son will reside in or near Fairview.

- 30 -

June 5, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASSISTANT FARMERS' ADVOCATE APPOINTED

The Farmers' Advocate of Alberta, Helmut P. Entrup, has announced the appointment of Bard Haddrell to the position of assistant Farmers' Advocate of Alberta.

Mr. Haddrell will assist Mr. Entrup with problems and complaints received from farmers, which arise from the action of parties other than the government and its agencies. However, they include all matters pertaining to individuals versus rural municipalities.

Bard Haddrell
Assistant Farmers' Advocate of Alberta

Mr. Haddrell joined the office of the Farmers' Advocate with a background of experience in farming, police work, the food industry, consumer and corporate affairs and agricultural marketing. He received his degree from the University of Victoria. Because his background has given him wide contact with the agriculture community, he should prove a beneficial addition to the office of the Farmers' Advocate.

Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

AGRI-NEWS

LIBRARY
JUN 9 1978
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
EDMONTON, ALBERTA

June 12, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Water Well Registration 1

Biological Control of Leafy Spurge in Alberta 3

Farm Credit Corporation Increases Lending Limits 5

Western Encephalitis 6

Plastic Mulches 7

Pork Entries Set Record 9

Preserved Wood Foundations 11

Alberta Women's Week at Grouard 12

Breton Field Day 13

Soils and Fertilizers for Gardens and Lawns 14

Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

June 12, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WATER WELL REGISTRATION

People who have a well that was drilled before April 27, 1971 which produces more than 21,000 gallons of water a week for domestic or mixed farming purposes and owners of commercial wells drilled before April 27, 1971, regardless of the volume of water they produce, must register their wells with Alberta Environment's controller of water resources before June 30 if they want to protect their water rights.

As a general rule, the water rights of people whose wells produce less than 21,000 gallons of water a week on a year-round basis for domestic or farming purposes are assured of a continual supply of water under Alberta's present laws. However, people whose wells were drilled before April 27, 1971 (when legislation was changed), and which produce more than 21,000 gallons of water a week, could find themselves short of water in the future if they do not register their wells now, even though they may have been using the wells for many years.

Categories where action should be taken before the end of June to protect water rights include: commercial users of water such as small manufacturers; motel operators who rely on a water well; large farming operations such as a feedlot which use more than 21,000 gallons of water a week; municipalities which use wells to supply their water treatment and distribution systems and individual companies that use a well to supply water for non-domestic purposes.

An owner of a commercial or large-volume well who registers his well before the end of June will have established his claim to the ground water from the date the well came into production. For example, if the well was drilled in 1926 and is registered now, the owner's priority for water will date back to 1926. This means his water rights will have priority over those belonging to owners of wells that were drilled after 1926.

- (cont'd) -

Water Well Registration (cont'd)

Water wells that came into production after April 27, 1971 can be licensed any time under standard licensing procedures, but those that came into production before that date must be registered before they can be licensed.

It costs $1 to license a well that produces up to an average of 52,000 gallons of water a week. The cost of a licence for a well that produces a larger volume of water increases as the volume increases.

The head of the Water Well Registration Program, Vern Carlson, urges people to whom the June 30 deadline applies not to miss it because it seems unimportant. He points out that the 1971 legislation was enacted by the government in anticipation of a greater demand and greater competition for groundwater in the future. He estimates that between 1,000 and 1,500 water wells in Alberta should be registered before the end of June.

Application forms can be obtained from the regional offices of Alberta Environment's water resources division, the controller of water resources and district agriculturists.

Further information on the registration of water wells can be obtained from Vern Carlson, Water Resources Management, Alberta Environment, 9820 - 106 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2J6 (Telephone 427-6111) or Joe Will, Information Officer, Alberta Environment 9820 - 106 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2J6 (Telephone 427-6267).

- 30 -

June 12, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF LEAFY SPURGE IN ALBERTA

The biological control of leafy spurge in Alberta could be a reality in 10 to 15 years.

This is the opinion of F. D. Leavitt, supervisor of weed research and development with Alberta Agriculture. He reports that spurge hawk moths were released in the Lethbridge region last year, and that the release was the beginning of a co-operative effort between Alberta Agriculture and the federal Biological Control Center in Regina, Saskatchewan, and the Commonwealth Institute of Biological Control (CIBC) in Switzerland. CIBC operates under the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau, which has a membership of 24 Commonwealth countries, including Canada, and 11 territories.

Since its formation in 1927, CIBC has recorded a large number of successes in the biological control of weeds, some of which have been spectacular. The benefits derived from the few projects where it has been possible to assess the results in monetary terms have amounted to between $40 and $60 million. Current annual savings from the elimination of specific weeds run at well over $6 million, according to figures supplied by sponsoring authorities.

The recent announcement that Alberta Agriculture has signed an agreement with CIBC marks the beginning of a serious attempt to control leafy spurge by biological methods in Alberta. Under the agreement the Swiss scientists will collect and screen insect predators which feed on leafy spurge and that are likely to adapt to Alberta conditions. Screening is necessary to ensure that the insects will not attack beneficial crops. As a general rule, three or four different types of insects are needed to bring one weed species under control.

Preliminary results in Western Canada, where biological weed control has been carried out on a limited scale, indicate that it is possible to control weeds by this method. Since leafy spurge is not a problem in areas of Europe which have a similar climate to that in Alberta, it is reasonable to expect that insects could be found there which would permanently control the weed here. Among the weed species that have been successfully reduced in Canada through the importation of insects from Europe are St. John's wort, tansy ragwort and nodding thistle.

- (cont'd) -

Biological Control of Leafy Spurge in Alberta (cont'd)

Since its introduction into Canada from Europe in the early 1900's without its insect predators, local and provincial governments have recognized the potential hazard of leafy spurge to crop production. At the present time 10,000 acres of land are infested, but most of it is located in environmentally sensitive areas. These include shelterbelts, native woodlots, the banks of rivers and streams and parks and resort areas where herbicides cannot normally be used.

Although municipal control programs have not been successful in reducing the total acreage of leafy spurge in Alberta, they have kept infestations from spreading to large areas of cultivated land. It is because most of the infestations are located in environmentally sensitive areas, and the fact that leafy spurge is spreading from river banks to irrigation water, that Alberta Agriculture embarked on its present project with CIBC. In addition to the increasing threat to cultivated land, infestations are reducing the grazing capacity of native pasture.

Once leafy spurge gains entry to cultivated land, a small patch can be spread over an entire field by modern tillage equipment. Even though herbicides have been successful in reducing seed set, density of stand and the spread of this weed to cultivated land, they will not eradicate it. The most effective herbicides will control it for only three to five years.

The present cost of the province's municipal control programs is $100 to $125 per acre. Over the past 35 years approximately $4 million have been spent on chemicals and their application.

However, herbicides will continue to play an important role in keeping leafy spurge in check because the search for biological control agents in Europe and their subsequent release here is a long-term project. The success of the biological control program will depend upon the degree to which the insects adapt to climatic conditions in Alberta and the number of different insects made available from Europe.

June 12, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM CREDIT CORPORATION INCREASES LENDING LIMITS

In addition to a number of other things, recent amendments to the Farm Credit Act have raised lending limits.

The lending limit for a farming operation with one qualifying applicant is now $200,000, regardless of age. The previous maximum loan was $150,000 for an eligible applicant under 35 years of age, and $100,000 for an eligible applicant over 35 years of age.

The amendments also provide for a loan limit of $400,000 for farm units with two or more qualifying applicants. Previously the same loan limit applied to all farm units, regardless of the number of eligible applicants involved.

Harry Warne of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch says this new provision will be useful for joint farming operations and for families who wish to expand their farming unit to enable a son or daughter to work into the business.

Another amendment provides for all loans to be secured on a market value basis. In the past standard loans to people under the age of 35 could be secured on a market value basis, but those made to people over 35 were secured on an appraised productive value basis.

Still another amendment provides for the elimination of the penalty interest charge on loans that are in arrears.

The $25 a year charge for supervision, which was applied to loans exceeding 75 per cent of the appraised value of the farm business, has been dropped. Advisory services will now be provided only when needed and requested.

To qualify for a standard loan under the present Farm Credit Act, a borrower who is over 35 years of age must have a full-time farm business. However, a person who is under 35, and who wants to "phase into" farming, may retain an off-farm job for up to five years.

The average loan made by the Farm Credit Corporation last year was $78,995 compared with $67,510 in 1976. Approximately 72 per cent of last year's loans were made to farmers under the age of 35.

June 12, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WESTERN ENCEPHALITIS

If you intend to vaccinate your horse against western encephalitis, now is the time to do it. If you had your horse vaccinated last year, it is time to give him his annual booster.

The director of Alberta Agriculture's veterinary services division, Dr. H. N. Vance, is in favor of vaccinating horses against western encephalitis. "It is far better," he says, "to vaccinate now than to wait until horses start getting sick in mid-summer because there is still no really effective treatment against this disease."

There are a few cases of western encephalitis around almost every year with widespread outbreaks occurring in about one out of every 10 years, according to Dr. Vance.

Western encephalitis is a virus disease that is spread by mosquitoes from wild birds to both horses and people. In people the disease is called sleeping sickness. Dr. Vance says its prevalence in any one year depends upon how plentiful the infection is in birds, the size of the mosquito population and a number of other factors.

He advises all horse owners to check with their veterinarian regarding vaccinations and booster shots.

- 30 -

June 12, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLASTIC MULCHES

The use of a plastic mulch in an area where it is suitable will conserve energy, control weeds (except clear plastic) and produce earlier crops and high yields. Plastic mulches generally work best in the hot dry regions of Alberta.

Preliminary research carried out at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks shows that cucumbers benefit most from a plastic mulch. Their foliage is more lush than conventionally grown crops and their yields are considerably higher. It is also possible to get watermelons to mature in areas where their maturity would otherwise be marginal. So far mulches are not recommended for tomatoes because these plants tend to produce too much vine at the expense of fruit, and their maturity is delayed.

Other hot weather crops that it is thought could benefit from a mulch are such things as peppers, eggplants, muskmelons and squash.

You can lay a plastic mulch either before or after a horticultural crop has been planted, but the soil must be slightly moist to prevent the seeds or transplants from suffering from dehydration early in the season. It must also be very smooth to facilitate a tight union between it and the plastic.

When laying the plastic by hand be sure to bury the edges in the soil so that the wind will not catch them and blow the plastic away. There are special applicators on the market for applying plastic mulches on a commercial scale.

Diagonal cuts directly over the row are recommended when plastic is laid over a row of closely planted seeds such as carrots or turnips. The wind is less likely to tear plastic with diagonal cuts than with straight cuts. Cuts two to three inches apart in the form of an "X" are recommended for seeds that are planted several inches apart. Larger cuts are suggested for plants like cucumbers and melons, which are prone to damping-off, to allow for a greater exchange of air.

- (cont'd) -

Plastic Mulches (cont'd)

Transplants should be watered when they are put into the ground. After that an irrigation sprinkler system or reasonably regular rains will provide enough moisture. Hotcaps can be placed over warm weather crops that are being grown with a mulch to give them an early start in areas where frost is likely.

The Alberta Horticultural Research Center has also shown that clear plastic gives results that are greatly superior to those obtained from the colored plastics. However, clear plastic can only be used on weed-free soil because it promotes weed growth.

Black plastic was found to make the next best mulch. There were no problems with weeds because black plastic does not allow light to pass through it, thereby, completely eliminating all weed growth.

Plastic mulches work on the principle of transmitting the heat that they absorb directly into the soil. The added heat draws up the soil moisture and provides the plants with a more uniform soil moisture level than would otherwise be possible. However, this soil moisture retention factor can be disastrous for vine crops if the weather is cloudy, cold and very wet.

To date costs of laying plastic mulches on a commercial scale in Alberta have not been calculated. However, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food reports the overall cost of laying and removing plastic mulches in that province is about $250 per acre.

June 12, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PORK ENTRIES SET RECORD

The number of breeders who have entered stock in the fourth Alberta Pork Congress, scheduled for June 20-22 at the Red Deer Exhibition Grounds, and the number of purebred animals entered, have broken all previous records for this annual event.

Twenty-eight breeders, 25 from Alberta and three from Saskatchewan, have entered 83 purebred boars and gilts. All these animals and the herds they come from have been inspected and cleared under the Provincial Herd Health Program, and the animals have all been tested under the Alberta Record of Performance Program (ROP) for breeding stock. Their ROP records will be prominently displayed.

A series of four seminars will be held in conjunction with the congress. The 13 speakers will discuss baby pig scours, dry feeding and management, baby pig management and dry sow breeding and management.

The congress will also feature displays and exhibits of swine equipment, feed, medicine and services from 40 companies. This section is designed to give swine producers and others interested in swine production and the swine industry an opportunity to see the latest technology and to obtain the latest information in this area.

There will be a pork barbecue for up to 600 people with one-inch thick pork chops, cooked by Walter Varvofsky, chef instructor at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary. It will be held on June 20 at 5 p.m. and tickets can be obtained at the congress. They cost $4 each.

A buffet-style banquet, scheduled for June 21, will feature a variety of hot and cold pork dishes. It will take place in the Red Deer Lodge and will include a social hour that will begin at 6 p.m. The banquet will begin at 7 p.m. Dr. John McGowan, federal veterinary director-general will address the banquet guests.

- (cont'd) -

Pork Entries Set Record (cont'd)

The 1978 Alberta Pork Queen will be crowned after the banquet, and this event will be followed by the public auction in the banquet hall of the 10 top barrow carcasses. The final event of the evening will be dancing to the Blue Willow Band with added entertainment by Russ Gurr, a country singer from Manitoba who wrote "Hogs are Beautiful"!

Banquet tickets can be obtained from the secretary of the Alberta Pork Congress, Box 5002, Red Deer, T4N 5Y5 (Telephone 343-5334). They cost $12 each and must be bought by June 19.

The purebred swine sale will take place on June 22 in the Kinex Building at 1 p.m.

- 30 -

June 12, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESERVED WOOD FOUNDATIONS

Did you know that anybody in Alberta who builds a house with a preserved wood foundation has to follow specific regulations, laid down by Alberta's Building Standards Branch. They apply to farmers and acreage holders as well as to people who live in cities, towns and villages.

The regulations state that:

- The foundation must be designed by a professional engineer who is registered with the Province of Alberta.
- The completed foundation must be inspected by a professional engineer or his delegate just before and during the backfilling operation.
- The professional engineer must write a letter to the owner and to the municipality stating that the foundation has been inspected.

Mr Marler points out that less than top quality in a concrete foundation (slight cracks, bulges, etc.) is not as serious as it would be in a preserved wood foundation. The concrete usually has quite a bit of reserve stength, and so can still hold up the house. Because a preserved wood foundation has less reserve strength, it must rely on proper design and installation to function properly.

"When correctly designed and constructed, a preserved wood foundation will easily last as long as a concrete foundation under any conditions," Mr. Marler says, "and it is easier to make into a finished basement than concrete."

- 30 -

June 12, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA WOMEN'S WEEK AT GROUARD

This year the Peace River region's Alberta Women's week will be held at the Alberta Vocational Centre in Grouard, which is about 50 kilometres northeast of High Prairie.

This special summer program will run from the afternoon of July 4 to the afternoon of July 7. It is designed for women of all ages who can come by themselves, with a friend or in a group.

Accommodation and meals are available at the centre, but because space is limited, registration will be on a first come, first serve basis. The registration deadline is June 25.

A special program has been organized for children up to eight years of age who accompany their mothers. It has been set up as a creative learning experience and will be run by Early Childhood Services personnel and district home economists.

The women's program has been arranged so that all the women will to together to listen to one main speaker during each of the three morning sessions. During the two afternoons, there will be six different sessions to allow participants a choice of topics.

The topics for the morning sessions are: Farm Wills and Estates; Clothing for Special Needs (children and the elderly) and Energy Conservation. The afternoon sessions will feature the following choices: Interior Decorating; Basketry; Rural Water and Laundry Products; Small Applicance Know-How; "Help, My Child Won't Eat Right" and Farm and Home Safety.

The registration fee for Alberta Women's Week at Grouard is only $5. On a daily basis, it is $2 per day. A package deal has been arranged for meals and accommodation for women who attend the whole program. It costs only $25. Women attending one or two days will pay $15 per day. Meals are also available on an individual basis.

The cost of the children's program is $1.50 per child per day plus partial rates for oom and board.

Further information and application forms can be obtained from district home conomists or from Virginia Merchant, Co-ordinator, Alberta Women's Week at Grouard, Box 0, Falher, T0H 1M0.

June 12, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRETON FIELD DAY

Acid soils and their correction through the use of lime and marle is the theme of this year's Breton field day, scheduled to start a 1 p.m. on July 14.

Breton is 64 km west and 9.6 km south of Leduc, and the plots are 1.6 km east and 1.6 km south of Breton. The plots are on grey wooded soil and were established by the University of Alberta in 1930 to facilitate research into the management of grey wooded soils.

There will be three speakers at the field day who will discuss the problems encountered with acid soils and some of the solutions. A field demonstration of a lime spreader, recently purchased by Alberta Agriculture, will be one of the highlights of the day. Participants will also be able to examine the profile of a grey wooded soil, and, weather permitting, there will be a tour of the plots.

Lunch will be available for a nominal fee at 12 p.m. on the plot site.

- 30 -

June 12, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOILS AND FERTILIZERS FOR GARDENS AND LAWNS

The University of Alberta's faculty of agriculture and forestry has published an extensive revision their publication entitled "Soils and Fertilizers for Gardens and Lawns" to help people in the province who have poor or difficult soils for gardening or for making lawns.

Compiled by Dr. C. F. Bentley and Dr. J. A. Robertson of the department of soil science, it contains the basic ABC's of soils, and gives answers to questions frequently asked about lawns and gardens.

An ideal garden soil must possess good physical and chemical characteristics. For example, a soil that has good physical properties does not cake or bake. It is well aerated, and water and plant roots can penetrate it easily. It holds water well and has a grunular or crumb-like structure. In other words it has good tilth.

Poor gardens and lawns are usually caused by the poor physical structure or chemical composition of the soil or both . A soil which possesses good chemical composition is able to supply plants with the essential plant nutrients in a form that they can readily absorb. It does not possess chemical qualities that are harmful to plants.

"Soils and Fertilizers for Gardens and Lawns" can be obtained $1 from the University of Alberta Bookstore, Student's Union Building, University of Alberta Campus, Edmonton, T6G 2J7.

- 30 -

AGRI-NEWS

June 19, 1978

LIBRARY
JUN 16 1978
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
EDMONTON, ALBERTA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

New Winery Receives Federal-Provincial Assistance 1

Export Value of Alberta Agricultural Products Doubles 2

A Search for Pig Hearts 3

Wetting Agents and Soil Conditioners have Questionable Agricultural Value 4

Newly Discovered Venereal Disease of Horses 5

New Machinery Evaluation Reports Released 6

Preserved Wood Foundations 7

Edmonton to Host National Conference of Food Scientists and Technologists 8

Market Gardens 10

When to Add Supers to Your Bee Hives 12

Moss in Lawns 14

Queen Bee Losses 15

Fabrics Go Metric 16

Summer Assistant District Agriculturists Appointed 17

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

Phone (403) 427-2127

June 19, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW WINERY RECEIVES FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL ASSISTANCE

Andrew Wolf Cellars Ltd. of Cochrane is the first Alberta winery to receive a grant under the federal-provincial Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement.

Announced by Marcel Lessard, federal minister of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE) and Marvin Moore, Alberta's minister of agriculture, the grant was for $65,337. Approved capital costs, on which the grant was based, were $382,088.

Andrew A. Wolf, president of Andrew Wolf Cellars Ltd., and a veteran with 33 years experience in Canada's brewing and winery industries, plans to raise the standard of Canadian wines on both the domestic and international markets. At the present time he is experimenting with a fermentation process which is induced by Alberta honey.

During its first phase of operation, the winery will produce up to 20,000 gallons of wine a year. As demand for the wine increase, the production capacity of Andrew Wolf Cellars Ltd. will be expanded.

The federal-provincial Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement cost shared equally by DREE and Alberta Agriculture, is designed to facilitate the use of Alberta food products and to help create rural jobs. The new winery at Cochrane is expected to create three new jobs in the area.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS
403) 427-2127

June 19, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXPORT VALUE OF ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS DOUBLES

The export value of Alberta's agricultural products doubled over the five-year period from 1972 to 1976. Estimated at more than $1.6 billion in 1976, they include both interprovincial and international exports.

Ken Motiuk, statistician with Alberta Agriculture, reports that approximately 60 per cent of the export value was derived from crop products, while 40 per cent came from livestock and livestock products.

Products of primary importance were beef and veal, wheat and barley. Altogether they accounted for over 70 per cent of the province's agricultural exports in 1976.

Indications for 1977 show that the value of Alberta's agricultural export trade continued to increase. Mr. Motiuk says major growth items appear to be alfalfa, barley, malt and rapeseed meal.

- 30 -

June 19, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A SEARCH FOR PIG HEARTS

A representative of a southern California medical laboratory was in Alberta recently to select a trial shipment of valves taken from pigs' hearts.

The valves he is interested in are the aortic and the mitral, both of which are used for repairing human hearts. It was a valve taken from a pig's heart that was implanted in actor John Wayne during his recent open heart surgery.

According to the American official, seven valve sizes are required to accommodate the heart sizes of children and adults of both sexes. The possibility of a relationship existing between breed of hog and valve size is being investigated in Canada because hog breeds in this country are different to those in the United States. Among the reasons that the valves from hogs are used for human transplants is that these animals have similar sized hearts.

The laboratory in California that is investigating Canadian hog hearts supplies valves to about 300 medical centres around the world. The valves are removed from the animals immedately after they have been killed and shipped by air in ice to the laboratory for processing. They are then preserved in a chemical solution and held against future orders.

There is always a need for additional sources of heart valves of different sizes beause a very large percentage of those selected have to be discarded for one reason or another.

Research studies have demonstrated that tissue valves have certain potential advanages over synthetic valves in open heart surgery. One of these is that the patient does not have o have anticoagulant (blood thinning) therapy. For this reason tissue valves are often used for atients who may be difficult to maintain on anticoagulants such as young people, patients who ve in rural areas, women of childbearing age and patients with a history of gastrointestinal and ther problems associated with bleeding. One disadvantage of the tissue valves is that their life xpectancy is still not known.

The California laboratory representative worked through Alberta Agriculture's ternational marketing branch while in Alberta.

4

June 19, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WETTING AGENTS AND SOIL CONDITIONERS HAVE QUESTIONABLE AGRICULTURAL VALUE

Be cautious if you are approached by someone selling products commonly called wetting agents, soil conditioners or plant growth stimulants for use on crop land or in home gardens. The promoters of these products are claiming that they improve the effectiveness of herbicides, reduce water used and enhance crop growth.

According to research carried out by Alberta Agriculture, growers would be wise to read the label on their herbicide container or to contact a representative of the company that manufactures the herbicide before using one of these wetting agents. Many commonly used herbicides already contain a wetting agent, and the use of an additional one might damage the crop.

Some of the salesmen of wetting agents are claiming that they reduce the volume of irrigation water need for plant growth if they are sprayed on crops, soils or lawns. However, the Alberta Agriculture officials feel that this claim is questionable since they know of no information to support it.

Soil conditioners and plant growth stimulants have been promoted by their manufacturers for several years, and are usually claimed to increase crop growth and yields under a wide variety of conditions. However, these claims are also questionable. Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Canada's research stations and the University of Alberta's faculty of agriculture have not found any soil conditioners that could be recommended to increase crop yields.

It is suggested that anyone who is interested in trying a soil conditioner or a growth stimulant ask for a free sample of the product and then test on a small portion of his field.

For more information on wetting agents, soil conditioners or growth stimulants, contact your district agriculturist or a herbicide or soil specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

June 19, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWLY DISCOVERED VENEREAL DISEASE OF HORSES

The director of Alberta Agriculture's veterinary services division, Dr. H. N. Vance, suggests that people who have trouble getting their mares in foal have them checked by a veterinarian.

His reason for making this suggestion is that there is a newly discovered venereal disease of horses which has been found in thoroughbreds in France, the United Kingdom, Ireland and Australia. "It is unlikely", says Dr. Vance, "that there are any horses in this country with the disease because Canada placed a ban last summer on the importation of horses from any country known to have it. The United States imposed a similar ban last September."

Known as contagious equine metritis (CEM), the disease is caused by bacteria that attack the genital region of horses. Since the lesions are superficial, an infected animal may appear normal. In fact, the only time that the disease may become apparent is during the breeding season. Early abortion, a discharge and the inability of a mare to conceive are the signs to watch for.

The main feature of CEM is that it is very contagious, but it can only be spread from one horse to another during breeding or through the use of contaminated instruments during a genital examination. Because it is so contagious, CEM can have a devastating effect on the reproductive efficiency of horses during their short breeding season.

- 30 -

June 19, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW MACHINERY EVALUATION REPORTS RELEASED

The Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute has released evaluation reports on three popular press drill models. They are Massey Ferguson 63, John Deere 9350 and IHC 620.

The reports, which are based on field work carried out in the 1977 season, discuss such things as the penetration ability of the drills, seed placement, seed metering accuracy and draft requirements.

The three machines apparently give very uniform metering of wheat, oats and barley but modifications are needed on all of them to improve the uniformity of fine seed (e.g. rapeseed) metering.

The penetration of the three machines was found to be adequate when pre-seeding tillage had been carried out. However, some differences were noted between actual seeding rates and those specified on the manufacturer's calibration charts. These differences were attributed to differences in seed size, density and moisture content.

Evaluation reports have also been released on the Melroe 2710 Fertilizer Attachment and the 8.25 meter Doepker Grain Drill and Windrower Transporter, the Haybuster C9 and H1000, the Bearcat Tub-Master, the Farmhand F890-A and Sperry New Holland 379 tub-grinders

Alberta farmers who would like to receive these reports and others should contact the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute, c/o LCC Campus, Lethbridge, T1K 1L6.

- 30 -

June 19, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESERVED WOOD FOUNDATIONS*

Did you know that anyone in Alberta who builds a house with a preserved wood foundation has to follow specific regulations, [illegible] They apply to farmers and acreage holders as well as to people who live in cities, towns and villages.

The regulations state that:

- The foundation must be designed by a professional engineer who is registered with the Province of Alberta.
- The completed foundation must be inspected by a professional engineer or his delegate just before and during the backfilling operation.
- The professional engineer must write a letter to the owner and to the municipality stating that the foundation has been inspected.

According to Blaine Marler of Alberta Agriculture's home and community design branch, a proper basement design and correct construction procedures and backfilling techniques are essential for a permanent preserved wood foundation. Poor quality preserved wood foundations result from a poor design, improper construction methods or incorrect backfilling.

Mr. Marler points out that less than top quality in a concrete foundation (slight cracks, bulges, etc.) is not as serious as it would be in a preserved wood foundation. The concrete usually has quite a bit of reserve strength, and so can still hold up the house. Because a preserved wood foundation has less reserve strength, it must rely on proper design and installation to function properly.

"When correctly designed and constructed, a preserved wood foundation will easily last as long as a concrete foundation under any conditions," Mr. Marler says, "and it is easier to make into a finished basement than concrete."

- 30 -

* *Please note the third paragraph which was missed in the original version carried in the June 12 issue of Agri-News.*

June 19, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EDMONTON TO HOST
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF FOOD SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGISTS

More than 400 food scientists, technologists and administrators representing Canadian industry, universities, government research and regulatory agencies and other professions dealing with food and nutrition are expected to attend the 21st Annual Conference of the Canadian Institute of Food Science and Technology (CIFST) which will be held at the Edmonton Plaza Hotel in Edmonton from June 25 to 28.

This year's theme "Education-Information-Communication" will focus on the widening communication gap between the researcher and the consumer of food products. The opening address, entitled "Food Research — For Whose Benefit", will be given by Joseph Hulse, food program director of the Canadian International Development Research Centre in Ottwa and president-elect of the International Union of Food Science and Technology.

Among those presenting the 118 invited and volunteered technical papers at the conference will be speakers from the United States, West Germany, Iraq and a number of other countries.

Speakers from CIFST and its American counterpart, IFT, will discuss the problems of food information transfer from the scientist to the general public and the controversial question of food "chemicals" at the general symposia on the mornings of June 26 and 27. There will be a question and answer period on the evening of June 26 which will be open to all conference participants and the general public.

Other sessions will provide opportunities for discussions on food microbiology research, dairy technology, meat processing, nutrition and consumer acceptance, protein chemistry, waste utilization and many other aspects of the food industry. The session on the afternoon of June 28, entitled "Industrial Expansion", will be co-sponsored by "Innovation Canada", a non-profit organization involved in promoting new ideas.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS
03) 427-2127

Edmonton to Host National Conference of Food Scientists and Technologists (cont'd)

Industrial exhibits, displaying new food ingredients, equipment and services that are available to the food industry, will be a special feature of this year's conference.

Professor P. Jelen of the University of Alberta's food science department is the general chairman of the National Conference of Food Scientists and Technologists.

- 30 -

June 19, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARKET GARDENS

Where are Alberta's market gardeners located? What do they sell? When are they open? And how can you find them?

A publication entitled "Alberta Market Gardeners" lists the names and addresses of approximately 75 of the main market gardeners in the province, and gives directions on how to get to their premises. It also tells the months and days that the market gardens are open, the main crops produced and the methods by which sales are conducted. These include farm gate sales, where the vegetables have already been picked; pick-your-own sales, where you harvest your own produce and farmers' market sales, where you buy the produce from a stall in one of Alberta's 63 farmers' markets.

Last year Alberta had approximately 1,000 acres in fresh fruit and vegetables and approximately 180 market gardeners. In 1975 the number of acres and the number of market gardeners were 700 and 120 respectively. A further increase in the market garden acreage and in the number of producers is predicted for this year and for the years ahead.

Why the greatly increased demand for market garden produce? First, people in general are becoming more quality conscious and are demanding better quality and fresher produce. The increased cost of these products in grocery stores is another factor. Still another one is the delight many urban residents experience from the country atmosphere of market gardens. The market gardens where customers can pick their own produce have a special appeal for many people.

According to Lloyd Hausher, market garden specialist with Alberta Agriculture, most market gardeners in the province have built up a clientele of regular weekly customers. "Some strawberry producers," he says, "draw customers from a radius of 300 miles every year to harvest a carload of fresh berries."

- (cont'd) -

ardens (cont'd)

Corn and cucumbers top the list in number of acres being produced in Alberta, followed by cabbage, cauliflower, peas and other types of vegetables.

If you would like a copy of "Alberta Market Gardeners" contact your district rist, L. Hausher, Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Bag Service 200, Brooks, or the Publications Office, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K

- 30 -

June 19, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHEN TO ADD SUPERS TO YOUR BEE HIVES

Are you wondering when you should add more supers to your hives and how many you should add at one time?

Unfortunately, there are no hard and fast rules because supering, like most beekeeping operations varies greatly with the individual beekeeper, his particular operation and local conditions. However, a few general guidelines may help.

The first decision comes early in the season when the package bees begin to fill their single-story hives. Dr. Ulf Soehngen, supervisor of apiculture with Alberta Agriculture, says he prefers to crowd the bees a little at this stage by adding the second super only after the bees have begun to occupy the space between the hive wall and the first frame and between the hive wall and the last frame. He points out that bees which are a bit crowded tend to occupy the second super more quickly and to use the additional space more efficiently than bees that are supered too early. However, he warns that hives should not be crowded too much. Even small hives will swam if very overcrowded.

A second super should be added sooner than suggested above when a beekeeper is not able to inspect his hives every week or when the nectar flow is so good that the space available for broodrearing is reduced by the incoming pollen and nectar.

The third super should be added in advance of actual need. Most colonies will be relatively strong at this stage and are capable of expanding almost overnight. Supering in advance of needs will also help to control swarming.

Factors which should be considered when supering for the main nectar flow are colony strength; expected volume of nectar and the length of time between service trips to the apiary. Since all these factors can only be estimated, the actual decision on how much additional space to give to a specific hive must be made when the hives are being serviced.

- (cont'd) -

to add Supers to Your Bee Hives (cont'd)

However, Dr. Soehngen suggests the following general procedure as a guide. Add r whenever the bees start to seal the top cells of the frames containing new honey. Al- ı the addition of one super is enough for most hives at the beginning of the nectar flow, ing they are serviced at least one a week, strong hives may require two supers (rarely when all conditions appear to be favorable.

June 19, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOSS IN LAWNS

Do you have moss in your lawn? Would you like to get rid of it?

The only way to rid your lawn of moss is to eliminate the conditions that cause it, according to Chris Campbell, horticultural specialist with Alberta Agriculture. She says there are moss killers, which contain ferrous compounds, on the market, but that they control moss only temporarily.

Moss is a problem in lawns when growing conditions are unsuitable for grass. These conditions include shade, poor drainage and low fertility. If your lawn is being shaded too much by shrubs or trees, you should, if possible, thin or prune them to let in more light. If your difficulty is drainage, possible solutions are to reroute the runoff water, to put gravel or drainage tiles under the problem area or to raise the surface of the problem area by adding soil. Another solution might be to fertilize your lawn, especially in areas where trees or shrubs are competing for the moisture and plant nutrients.

Still another solution might be to grow shade tolerant groundcover. There are a number of different types on the market. Among them are Japanese spurge and creeping Oregon grape for partially shaded areas, and goutweed and periwinkle for very shady areas.

Alberta Agriculture has a publication entitled "Lawn Building and Maintenance" which contains a great deal of useful information on making a new lawn and maintaining an existing lawn. It has sections on selecting the right type of grass and on seeding, putting down sod, fertilizing, mowing and watering and on controlling weeds, dewworms and other insects. It also covers snow mould, fairy rings, rust on bluegrass and mildew.

Copies of "Lawn Building and Maintenance" can be obtained from your district agriculturist or from the publications office, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

June 19, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

QUEEN BEE LOSSES

Beekeepers in various parts of the province have been plagued by an unusually high percentage of queen losses this year. One beekeeper reported that 40 per cent of his queens, all from the same breeder, had disappeared.

According to Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of apiculture, Dr. Ulf Soehngen, the symptoms in most cases were strikingly similar. Nearly all the beekeepers who reported losses had a normal or below normal queen loss during their first check. Dr. Soehngen says "It was not until the second queen check, several weeks later, that all hell broke loose! Again and again, colonies were found to have large slabs of sealed brood, but to be entirely without larvae, eggs, queen cells or queens. Dead queens were often found in the grass in front of the colonies."

The cause of these losses has still not been established, but there are several opinions. One of these puts the blame on nosema. This opinion is based on the fact that more than 50 per cent of the dead queens analyzed by a member of the apiculture branch were found to be heavily infected with this disease. Extended periods of cool, unsettled weather both here and in California, where the package bees came from, kept the bees confined to their colonies, which favors the spread of nosema.

- 30 -

June 19, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FABRICS GO METRIC

At the beginning of July fabrics will be sold by the metre in Canada.

Since the metric system is based on decimals, measuring lengths of fabric will be easier with this method than it was by the imperial method. The terms that will be used are the metre, centimetre and the millimetre.

According to Doreen Al-Adra, assistant clothing and textile specialist with Alberta Agriculture, pattern sizes will not change. You will buy the same sized pattern as before (a size 12 is still a size 12). The only difference with the metric system is that body measurements are recorded in centimetres. "All you need," says Ms. Al-Adra, "is a metric tape measure to find your new metric self!" Since all pattern books have charts which list body measurements in metrics, it will be easy to check the size of pattern you need.

The three common measuring units for home sewing are:

metre (m) — to measure fabric lengths
centimetre (cm) — to measure fabric widths
millimetre (mm) — to measure width of trims, elastic, buttons, etc.

Fabric widths will be expressed in centimetres -- the four most common are:

90 cm (36 in) — for cottons and cotton blends
115 cm (45 in) — for cottons and cotton blends
140 cm (54 in) — for wool
150 cm (60 in) — for doubleknits

Since a metre is slightly larger than a yard, the price you pay for a metre will be slightly more than the price per yard. It is important to remember, however, that you will need the same quantity of the same width of fabric as you needed under the imperial system. Hence, the cost of the same quality of fabric will be the same under either system.

Ms. Al-Adra says many sewing notions are already sold in metric units. Zippers, for example, are sold in centimetre lengths (18 cm is a common skirt zipper; 55 cm is a common neckline zipper). Thread is measured by the metre, while snaps, elastic widths, and button diameters are measured in millimetres.

June 19, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUMMER ASSISTANT DISTRICT AGRICULTURISTS APPOINTED

The associate director of Alberta Agriculture's extension division, R. F. Berkan, has announced the appointments of six summer assistant district agriculturists.

As has been the case in previous years, they are all either recent graduates of the University of Alberta or currently enrolled in a B. Sc. (agriculture) program there. They will be employed at various extension offices throughout the province until September 1, 1978.

David Wong

David Wong has been appointed to the Lethbridge district office. A native of Sedgewick and a 1977 graduate of the University of Alberta, he has spent the last four summers employed by Swift Canadian Company.

Fred Potrebenko

Fred Potrebenko is the summer assistant at Airdrie. Raised on a farm near Rycroft, he has just completed the third year of the agriculture program at the University of Alberta and has worked during the past two summers with Alberta Environment.

Brian Kremeniuk

Brian Kremeniuk has been appointed summer assistant at Coronation. He has also just completed the third year of the agriculture program at the University of Alberta. For the past three summers he has been employed by the construction industry.

Agnes Phillips

Agnes Phillips is the summer assistant at Provost. A 1978 graduate of the University of Alberta, she was raised on a farm near Altario, Alberta, and has worked during the past two summers with Travel Alberta.

Glenn Kirschman

Glenn Kirschman is at Athabasca. He was raised on a farm near Castor and has just completed the third year of the B.Sc. (agriculture) program at the University of Alberta. In past summers he has worked with the County of Paint Earth and Caribou Pipelines Ltd.

- (cont'd) -

ımer Assistant District Agriculturists Appointed (cont'd)

ɉer Andreiuk

Roger Andreiuk is the summer assistant for the Fairview district office. He was ed on a farm near Spirit River and has had previous summer experience with the Alberta ɘst service. He has just completed the third year of the B.Sc. (agriculture) program at the iversity of Alberta.

- 30 -

AL.1.691

AGRI-NEWS

June 26, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Japanese Forage Seed Mission Visits Alberta 1

Food Outlook 3

Lamb Outlook 6

Western Spray Group Data 7

Vaccinating Pets against Rabies 8

Sheep Scene '78 9

Elm Tree Survey 11

Wheat Information Seminar 12

Beef Recipe Contest 13

Recipes for Wild Fruits 14

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

Phone (403) 427-2127

June 26, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JAPANESE FORAGE SEED MISSION VISITS ALBERTA

The president of the Japan Forage Crop Seed Association and the directors and managers of six major companies that belong to it were in Alberta recently to evaluate possible forage seed multiplication sites in the northern part of the province.

The Japanese government has been multiplying forage seed overseas since 1975. Japanese seed growers, members of the forage crop seed association, and a trading firm now import seeds from overseas growers under contract. The forage varieties that the Alberta mission was interested in multiplying in Alberta are orchard grass, timothy, tall fescue and red clover.

The delegates were hosted by the Alberta Forage Seed Council, the Alberta Branch of the Western Seed Trade Association, Agriculture Canada's research station at Beaverlodge and the international marketing sector of Alberta Agriculture.

While here they met with Alberta forage seed processors and exporters; toured the research station at Beaverlodge, where extensive performance testing is being carried out on foreign forage seed varieties, and visited a number of seed farms in the Peace River area as well as a seed processing plant in Grande Prairie.

They also exchanged information and opinions on forage seed production with their Alberta counterparts and obtained general information on the province's forage seed industry as well as on the laws and regulations that govern it.

Sponsored by the Japan Forage Crop Seed Association, the mission included the vice-president of Takii and Co., Ltd.; the managing director of the Kaminopporo Seeds Breeding Farm; the manager of the Field, Forage and Lawn Grass Seed Department of T. Sakata and Co.; the technical advisor of the seed section of the Federation of Agricultural Co-operative Society of Hokkaido; the manager of the Forage Seed Department of Kaneko Seeds Co., Ltd. and representatives of the Nissho-Iwai Co., Ltd.

- (cont'd) -

Japanese Forage Seed Mission Visits Alberta (cont'd)

The Alberta Forage Seed Council and the other organizations that hosted the Japanese were pleased with the opportunity to show them the potential that exists here for them to expand their trade with Canada.

Alberta was the only province in Canada visited by the delegates during their North American tour, which included Oregon and Minnesota in the United States.

- 30 -

June 26, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOOD OUTLOOK

(published by
Alberta Agriculture's Food Marketing Branch)

In all probability beef prices will continue to increase as the summer progresses.

Hamburger prices at this time are increasing at a faster rate than the higher quality meat cuts, mainly due to a shortfall in the domestic slaughter of non-grain fed cattle. This is evident in both Canada and the United States. In Canada this situation is still being aggravated by the value of the Canadian dollar relative to the U.S. dollar, and there will be a further reduction in non-grain fed cattle available for slaughter this summer.

Pork supplies, although up from 1977, are still not sufficient to offset the decline in beef production. Consequently, pork prices will increase as well. It has become evident that a combination of factors such as adverse weather and reduced pig litter sizes have contributed to the reduced North American pork supply.

What can you the consumer do to combat higher prices? The first thing to do is to recognize that red meat supplies in 1978 are going to be smaller than they were in 1977. Second, higher prices are not necessarily unjust. It should be recalled that for the last two and a half years meat prices, particularly beef prices, have been low. These lower beef prices reflected record supplies of beef, and resulted in producers reducing their cattle herds because they were unprofitable. As cattle inventories declined to the point where cattlemen are now making some profits on their operations, beef prices have increased. This is not just a local or national occurrence, it is worldwide.

In order to extend the purchasing power of your food budget, there are several things you can do. Two of them are:

- Try for a mix of lower and higher-priced meat cuts. The nutritional value will be the same.

- (cont'd) -

Food Outlook (cont'd)

- Watch for advertised meat specials to make bulk purchases. They will provide an opportunity for considerable cost saving.

Retail lamb prices are continuing to rise in 1978 due to reduced supplies of slaughter lambs and a devalued Candian dollar. Fresh Alberta lamb could be a tasty alternative to other red meats, particularly in late summer and early fall as supplies and prices tend to moderate.

Despite escalating retail prices for other foods, the consumer cannot help note that both chicken and egg prices have not risen at the retail level in the past year. In fact, egg prices were down this spring by 2¢ a dozen in retail stores in Edmonton compared with last year. It is not surprising, therefore, that housewives have been re-examining their recipe books to use more eggs in the daily diet. Per capita consumption in 1977 held at 19 dozen for Canda in contrast to drops in the previous four years of about 0.4 dozen per year. In Alberta it is estimated that consumption could be over 20 dozen per capita.

Commercial sales of chicken in the province were up 12 per cent in the first quarter of 1978 (30 per cent over the same period in 1976) with retail prices comparable to the same period last year. Increased supplies can be expected during the summer months. Alberta barbequers will probably be using more chicken than last year in view of the rapidly rising prices for red meats. Even turkey consumption has not been dropping. Per capita consumption rose in the first quarter of 1978 by approximately 10 per cent. However, supplies of this commodity will be limited as a result of quotas being reduced by the national agency in response to higher than desirable storage levels.

Alberta per capita fluid milk consumption took a dramatic upswing in 1977 compared with smaller per capita increases in other parts of the country. In the first quarter of 1978 fluid sales in the province were up 9 per cent, representing a continuation in the upward swing towards fluid milk consumption. Despite the fact that butter prices were more competitive with the price of margarine, 1977 butter disappearance was down 0.4 pounds per capita, while margarine consumption increased by 0.8 pounds. On the other hand, Canadian cheese consumption

- (cont'd) -

Food Outlook (cont'd)

held in 1977 and could even increase in 1978 as consumers recognize the increased value of cheese relative to red meats. The trend towards greater consumption of low fat cheeses including cottage cheese is expected to continue in 1978.

Since fresh produce supplies peak in both variety and volume during the summer months, prices are usually most reasonable during this time. For June and early July, Alberta is still very dependent on imports for fresh produce and potatoes. Exceptions are Alberta greenhouse cucumbers and tomatoes. The outlook for early summer is one of improving supplies. Early summer U. S. new crop potatoes will be in tighter supply than last year because plantings are down, and the weather appears to have hampered new crop development in some areas. Prices will likely follow a similar pattern throughout the summer.

Sugar supplies remain very good and prices are expected to remain low and stable throughout the summer. Honey supplies are also reasonable. With the usual summer slowdown in use, prices will likely remain relatively stable.

- 30 -

June 26, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAMB OUTLOOK

Canadian sheep producers can expect continuing high prices for the rest of 1978.

This is the opinion of Bill Gray of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch. He gives the following reasons for this prediction.

- The further reduction in the value of the Canadian dollar relative to the American dollar that has occurred in recent months.
- Reduced slaughter lamb supplies throughout North America as a result of smaller lamb crops in both Canada and the United States.
- Reduced total Canadian supplies of slaughter lamb because of lower imports of U.S. slaughter lambs during the remainder of 1978 (because of the devalued Canadian dollar) and the increase in the number of feeder lambs which moved into the U.S. from Canada during the second half of 1977.
- The further reduction in North American slaughter lamb supplies brought about by a tendency on the part of producers to retain ewe lambs to build up their breeding herds in response to improved prices.

Canadian per capita disappearance of mutton and lamb declined to 1.8 pounds in 1977 from 2.4 pounds in 1976 because of a 32 per cent reduction in the output from live lamb slaughter and a 22 per cent reduction in mutton and lamb imports. Stocks of mutton and lamb in cold storage on December 31, 1977 were virtually unchanged from 1976 and stood at 5.4 million pounds.

Mr. Gray suggests that Alberta sheep producers monitor feeder lamb, slaughter lamb and feed grain prices this fall to determine the profitability of feeding their lambs to slaughter weight as opposed to marketing them as feeders.

- 30 -

June 26, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WESTERN SPRAY GROUP DATA

It was generally agreed at a recent meeting of the Western Spray Group (an informal group of scientists working on pesticide application and spray drift) that progress during the past three or four years has resulted in the production of sprayer and nozzle designs that are completely satisfactory for the effective application of pesticides and for drift control.

Keith Price of Alberta Agriculture's weed control branch, who attended the meeting, reports that research emphasis will now shift to similar work on aircraft, spra-coupes and the tricycle or floater types of equipment.

It is estimated that approximately a third of the acreage sprayed in Manitoba is done on a custom work basis, and that the majority of the spraying is done by the large floatation equipment. Since this equipment was not originally designed for pesticide application, it is suspected of giving relatively poor coverage even though the incidence of drift is low.

Aircraft and spra-coupes continue to cause concern because of their poor spray patterns and high drift potential. However, Mr. Price says recent work indicates that substantial improvements may possibly be made to this equipment.

Operator safety and levels of operator exposure to pesticides during spraying operations is another field that is undergoing intensive investigation. At the present time, work is being done to develop exposure badges for pesticide applicators. The badges would change color when exposed to specific levels of pesticides. Other research will be carried out on inhalation machines that will measure the amount of pesticides inhaled by an applicator during a spraying operation.

Drift studies will be expanded to measure drift as far as 50 kilometres down wind from large aerial spraying projects. The long-term evaporation of pesticides from fields is another aspect of drift that is under investigation. Until now only losses that immediately follow an application have been considered.

June 26, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VACCINATING PETS AGAINST RABIES

Are you wondering whether you should vaccinate your dog or cat against rabies this summer?

Dr. H. N. Vance, director of Alberta Agriculture's veterinary services division, suggests people who live on acreages and farms and those who plan to take their pets to lake cottages, etc. have them vaccinated against rabies.

"While Alberta's rabies vector control program has been quite successful, we are still finding the occasional rabid skunk in the extreme eastern part of the province," he says. Although no cases of rabies have been diagnosed in Alberta so far this year, four skunks, one cow, and nine bats were recorded in 1977. According to Dr. Vance, bats are not a frequent source of rabies infection for dogs or cats.

Although present regulations do not require pet owners to have their animals vaccinated before taking them into any of the national parks, Dr. Vance thinks it is a good idea to vaccinate them anyway. He strongly recommends that people who plan to take their pets anywhere in Canada that is east of the Alberta border have them vaccinated. British Columbia is free of rabies, but it is still a good idea to vaccinate pets before taking them there.

Anyone planning to take a dog into the United States needs a rabies vaccination certificate signed by a Canadian or American veterinarian, which states that the animal was vaccinated at least 30 days, and not more than 36 months, before entering that country. Although cats do not require a rabies certificate to go into the United States, they must have one to re-enter Canada.

Both dogs and cats that have been domiciled in the United States must have been vaccinated against rabies within 36 months of entering Canada. However, puppies and kittens under three months of age do not have to have had a rabies vaccination.

- 30 -

June 26, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHEEP SCENE '78

Be sure to attend Sheep Scene '78 at the Red Deer Fair if you are a sheep producer or are interested in seeing an old fashioned shearing contest, sheep dog trials, a sheep-to-shawl competition and many other fascinating events and displays connected with the sheep industry.

The Red Deer Fair will take place at the Red Deer Exhibition Grounds from July 17 to 23, and Sheep Scene '78 will be held from July 19 to 22. This panoramic view of Alberta's sheep industry will consist of a large variety of events designed to appeal to both producers and consumers.

On July 20 Alberta's finest shearers will gather in the Sheep Building to battle for the title of champion shearer. Each will have five sheep, and the first one to finish will be Alberta's shearer of the year. This will be the first time that the contestants have had a chance in many years to show what they can do.

If you have never watched a top notch sheep dog at work, you have a real thrill in store at the International Working Dog Trials on July 22. You will see the dogs and their handlers controlling, moving and penning a flock of sheep. Although sheep dog trials have been held in Alberta before, this will be the first trial of an international calibre.

Canada's first sheep-to-shawl contest will be a challenging blend of speed, skill and craftmanship. It is a team sport. Each team will have a qualified shearer, three spinners, one weaver and an unshorn sheep. The objective of the contest is to see which team can produce a piece of material that measures two feet by six feet in the shortest time.

Spectators will be able to watch the whole process from the time the shearer makes his first cut through the sorting, tying, spinning and weaving procedures to the moment when the finished shawl is cut from the loom. The present North American record is two hours and 29 minutes.

- (cont'd) -

Sheep Scene '78 (cont'd)

The producers' section of the program will include a series of seminars on breeding strategies, flock health strategies, marketing strategies and feeding strategies. There will also be a lamb barbecue and a shepherd's stomp (lamb banquet featuring a national speaker and dance), the auctioning of the winning shawl and the presentation of the 1978 Sheep Gadget Award.

Sheep Scene '78 will wind up on the afternoon of July 22 with a sale of the top grading stock from the Alberta Sheep Test Station.

You can obtain further information on Sheep Scene '78 in general or on the producer section of the program from Don Scheer in Edmonton or Dick Shafto in Airdrie. They also have details on the competitions and entry forms.

Their addresses are: Don Scheer, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8 (Telephone 427-5077) and Dick Shafto, Bag Service No. 1, Airdrie (Telephone 948-5101).

- 30 -

June 26, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ELM TREE SURVEY

If you have an elm tree that is 25 years old, or older, and you live in southern Alberta, you may be able to help with an elm bark beetle survey that is being carried out this summer by Alberta Agriculture's entomology section and the federal Northern Forest Research Centre.

The survey is scheduled for the following regions: Brooks to Medicine Hat, Medicine Hat to Lethbridge and Lethbridge to Claresholm, and in the Lethbridge, Cardston and Milk River regions. Its purpose is to find out whether the two species of elm bark beetles which are responsible for spreading the dreaded Dutch elm disease are present in this province. If the survey should show that the beetles do not inhabit this part of the country, the chances of Dutch elm disease spreading to Alberta will be greatly reduced.

So far this fungus disease is known to be in Manitoba and Montana. Since first appearing in Manitoba three years ago, it has killed thousands of trees in that province and is still spreading. Once it gets a hold in an area, it spreads rapidly because dead and dying trees provide ideal conditions for the beetles to reproduce.

Those carrying out the survey are only interested in older trees because the beetles prefer them to younger trees for reproducing. The thick bark on the older trees provides better protection.

Elm bark beetles spread Dutch elm disease from one tree to another by boring into the small branches at the top of both American and Siberian elms. These holes become infected from the fungus spores carried on the beetles. When a tree has been infected, the leaves at the top turn yellow and then brown, but remain on the tree. The tree will die within a matter of weeks.

If you have one or more elm trees that are 25 years old or older and if you live in one of the areas that are going to be surveyed this summer, it would be greatly appreciated if you would contact your district agriculturist, agricultural fieldman or Hugh Philip, Plant Industry Laboratory, O. S. Longman Building, Box 8070, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 4P2.

June 26, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHEAT INFORMATION SEMINAR

The production of high protein and winter wheats, zero tillage and continuous cropping are among the topics that will be discussed at an information seminar to be held in Lethbridge on July 13 and 14 by the Palliser Wheat Growers Association in conjunction with the Lethbridge Agriculture Center.

The program will start at 12:30 p.m. with a tour of plots etc. at the federal agricultural research station in Lethbridge. Research scientists will be on hand to answer questions on such topics as wheat varieties, weed control and soils. A barbeque and dance are scheduled to take place in the evening in "The Barn" at the Lethbridge Community College.

On July 14 a number of well-known speakers will discuss the production of high protein and winter wheats, zero tillage and continuous cropping. In the afternoon five agricultural commodity groups and a speaker from Alberta Agriculture will address the audience. The audience will have a chance to question the commodity groups and representatives of the Alberta Government during the final session.

The seminar is open to anybody who is interested in the topics to be covered. A small fee will be charged to cover basic costs and meals.

- 30 -

June 26, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEEF RECIPE CONTEST

The deadline for entering the Beef Information Centre's recipe contest is July 15, 1978.

Entries must be original. Although the recipes can have been handed down in the family or revised from a magazine or cookbook, they cannot be taken verbatim from a magazine, newspaper or cookbook.

The contest is divided into five categories:

- Quick and easy recipes (preparation and cooking not to exceed 30 minutes).
- Budget recipes (made with inexpensive beef cuts).
- Gourmet beef recipes (suitable for entertaining or special occasions).
- Recipes for which small appliances are used (crockpot, wok, crepe pan, fondue, etc.).
- Quantity recipes (suitable for church groups, etc. --- to serve 50 or more people).

A contestant may enter recipes in more than one category or enter several recipes in one category.

The recipes will be judged on general appearance, suitability, originality and taste. The winner in each category will receive $25, and the overall winner will receive $100.

Who is eligible to enter the contest? The wives of beef producers across Canada and other members of the family.

All the recipes will become the property of the Beef Information Centre and may be used in their news releases, publications, etc.

In Alberta the address to mail the recipes to is The Beef Information Centre, 118 - 11 Avenue, S.E., Calgary, T2G 0X5.

- 30 -

June 26, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RECIPES FOR WILD FRUITS

Here are some recipe suggestions for wild fruits from Alberta Agriculture's home economists.

Saskatoons are flat unless acid is added. The acid is also needed to gel the fruit. Rhubarb, tart apple or lemon juice has the desired effect. Sugar should not be added until the fruit is cooked because it has a tendency to harden the berries. When saskatoons are freshly picked and made into pies a tablespoon of vinegar should be added to each pie. If rhubarb is mixed with the berries use 2 pounds of berries to one pound of rhubarb.

Saskatoon Jelly

Take the saskatoons and any other fruit that has been decided upon for flavoring, and put in a granite or aluminum kettle. Barely cover with cold water and boil together slowly until well cooked. Strain through a jelly bag and add three quarters as much sugar as juice by measure and cook for about 20 minutes until it sheets (two drops run together off a spoon). Pour in jelly glasses and cover with paraffin.

Saskatoon Jam

A process similar to that given above should be followed for jam, except that instead of straining through a bag, the fruit should be put through a coarse strainer. Saskatoons may also be put up for pie filling. In this case less sugar is required and the fruit, after being thoroughly cooked, is put away in air-tight sealers.

Saskatoon and Rhubarb Preserves

Boil together 5 pounds of sugar and 1 1/2 quarts of water until a moderately thick syrup results. Add 7 pounds of rhubarb, washed and cut but not peeled, and 4 or 5 quarts of saskatoons. When well blended seal at once.

- (cont'd) -

Recipes for Wild Fruits (cont'd)

Saskatoon Vinegar-Juice

Wash and mash the berries, place in a crock or enamel vessel and cover with a weak vinegar (half white wine vinegar and half water). Let stand overnight. The next day place on the stove and let it slowly come to a boil. Strain through jelly bag, add one pound of granulated sugar to each pint of juice. Boil together 10 minutes and bottle. Two tablespoons of this to a glass of water makes a very refreshing drink.

Pickled Saskatoons

Five pounds saskatoons, 3 cups sugar, one cup cider vinegar, one teaspoon cinnamon, one teaspoon cloves. Boil the sugar, vinegar and spices together for 10 to 15 minutes. Add the berries, bring to the boiling point, simmer 10 minutes and seal in jars.

Saskatoon and Rhubarb Jam

Three pounds rhubarb, 3 pounds sugar, one large orange, 3 pounds saskatoons, juice of one lemon. Cut rhubarb in one-eighth-inch pieces, quarter orange and remove seeds. Put through food chopper, being sure not to lose juice. Cook rhubarb, sugar and orange in kettle until thick. Add a little water if necessary. Put clean saskatoons through food chopper, add lemon juice and put into kettle. Cook about 15 minutes, stirring constantly.

High-Bush Cranberry Jelly

Cranberries should be picked for jelly when they are in the yellow stage or just turning red. Carefully wash and pick over the berries and put in a kettle with just enough water to cover. Cook gently until the fruit is tender. Strain through jelly bag. Add an equal amount of sugar to the strained juice, bring to the boiling point and simmer gently until it sheets. Pour in hot sterilized glasses. Cool and seal.

Cranberry Catsup

Boil a quantity of cranberries until soft. Put through a colander and place in a jelly bag to drain. Use the juice for jelly and the pulp for catsup. Three quarts cranberry pulp,

- (cont'd) -

one teaspoon ground cloves, one teaspoon cinnamon, 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger, 1/4 teaspoon red pepper pulp, 8 onions, one quart vinegar, 2 pounds brown sugar. Put all the ingredients into a kettle and boil for one hour. Seal in bottles or jars.

Spiced Cranberry Jelly

One quart cranberries, 2 cups sugar, one cup water, small piece cinnamon, 3 allspice, 12 cloves. Tie spices in cheesecloth, cook with the berries until the fruit is soft. Drain in a jelly bag, add sugar and boil until it sheets. Pour into hot glasses. Cool and seal.

Cranberry Marmalade

Cook berries very well and then press pulp through the colander. Boil pulp 15 minutes, then add 3/4 pound of sugar to each pound of pulp and cook 10 minutes longer. Seal while hot.

Wild Cherries

Wild cherries are so lacking in pectin that jelly cannot be made from them alone. However, a very nice jelly can be made by adding cranberry juice in the proportion of 1/3 cranberry to 2/3 cherry. If wild fruit jelly does not gel after boiling a sufficient length of time, add to each pint one level tablespoon of powdered gelatine that has been softened for five minutes in 1/4 cup of cold water. Heat to the boiling point, skin and strain into the glasses, or better still, use powdered or bottled pectin.

Chokecherry Vinegar

Mash the cherries thoroughly, then cover with weak vinegar (half white vinegar and half water). Let stand two days, stirring it each day. On the third day drain and add one cup granulated sugar for each cup of juice. Let juice come to a boil, settle well and bottle. Two tablespoons of this to a glass of water makes a splendid summer drink.

Chokecherry Jelly

Gather chokecherries when they are light red. Do not wait until they are dark red or black because they will not gel well and the jelly will have a bitter taste. Remove the

- (cont'd) -

berries from the stems, pick them over and wash. Use a few green chokecherries, also a few stalks of rhubarb, and, if you have them, a few late red currants even though they are very ripe. Put in kettle with just enough water to cover fruit and simmer gently until the fruit is tender. Strain through jelly bag. Add an equal amount of sugar and boil until it sheets. Skim. Pour into hot glasses, cool and seal. This jelly will be a beautiful color and have a pleasing tartness.

Pickled Chokecherries

Bring to the boiling point 1 1/2 pints of vinegar into which has been stirred 1/2 cup of brown sugar, one tablespoon of whole cloves, and one dozen blades of mace. Boil all together for five minutes and set aside to cool. Have ready 3 quarts of chokecherries and put them into glass jars. Remove the spices from the cold vinegar, and pour the latter over the fruit, filling the jars to the brim. Seal at once.

Pin Cherry Jelly

Use slightly under ripe berries. Wash and pick over, put in kettle with just enough water to cover, bring to the boiling point and simmer gently until the fruit is tender. Force through a strainer then strain through jelly bag. Add an equal amount of sugar to the juice, bring to the boiling point, skim and simmer gently until it gels. Pour into hot sterilized glasses, cool and seal.

Wild Gooseberry Jam

Three pounds wild gooseberries, 3 pounds sugar, one pound seeded raisins, 3 large oranges. Grate the rind of the oranges and add it and the juice to the washed and stemmed gooseberries. Then add sugar, raisins and just enough water to keep the fruit from burning. Cook slowly until thick, put in hot sterilized glasses and seal.

Wild Gooseberry Catsup

Five pounds wild gooseberries, four pounds sugar, two cups cider vinegar, 1 1/2 tablespoons cinnamon, one tablespoon cloves, one tablespoon allspice. Wash and stem berries,

- (cont'd) -

place in kettle and add sugar, vinegar and spices. Bring to boiling point, simmer gently for about two hours. Pour into hot sterilized bottles or jars and seal.

Wild Gooseberry Relish

Five cups wild gooseberries, 1 1/2 pounds seeded raisins, one medium-sized onion, 3 tablespoons salt, one quart vinegar, one cup brown sugar, 3 tablespoons mustard, 3 tablespoons ginger, 1/4 tablespoon cayenne pepper, one tablespoon turmeric. Pick over and wash berries. Put raisins and onion through meat grinder and add to gooseberries. Place in kettle, add vinegar, spices and seasoning. Bring slowly to boiling point, simmer gently for 45 minutes, strain through a coarse sieve, fill hot sterilized bottles and seal.

Spice Green Gooseberry Jam

One cup gooseberries (mashed), 3/4 cup water, one tablespoon vinegar, one cup sugar, 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon, 1/8 teaspoon cloves. Cook gooseberries slowly with water and vinegar until soft. Add sugar and spices. Mix thoroughly and cook to the jellying point. Fill sterilized jars and seal.

Sand Cherry Jam

Remove hulls. Wash and pick over the fruit. To each pound of fruit allow one pound of sugar and let stand overnight. Boil 30 minutes. Pour into sterilized jars and seal.

Blueberry Jam

One cup blueberries (mashed), 1/2 cup water, few grains salt, one tablespoon lemon juice, 1/2 cup sugar to each cup cooked fruit. Cook blueberries with water, lemon juice and salt until soft. Measure cooked fruit, add sugar. Boil to the jellying point.

Red Currant Jam

One cup currants, 3/4 cup sugar to each cup cooked fruit, one cup water. Add water to currants and cook slowly. Measure cooked fruit, add sugar. Boil to the jellying point.

AL.1.691

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

JUL [illegible]

July 3, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Alberta Forage Situation 1

The Rare Breed 3

Undoing A Herbicide Application Mistake 5

Suggestions for Pick-Your-Own Market Gardeners 7

Farmers Getting Younger 8

Agricultural Feature Show at Edmonton Exhibition Grounds. 9

Plant Science Field Day. 10

Head of Regional Economic and Business Services Branch Appointed 11

Administrative Assistant Appointed to Dairy Division 12

Coming Agricultural Events. 13

Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

July 3, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA FORAGE SITUATION

by Ken Motiuk
Alberta Agriculture's Statistics Branch

Forage crops and pastures in Alberta appear to be off to a good start.

In contrast to most years, the southern regions of the province have had an abundant supply of early rainfall with the result that almost all forage crops and pastures are in very good condition. Northern parts of the province had less than the usual amount of rainfall early in the season which slowed forage and pasture growth somewhat. However, late May rains boosted them, and they are now growing well.

Southern Region (Lethbridge, Medicine Hat)

The best way to describe the majority of the hay crops and pastures in this region is excellent. Pasture growth is heavy and is showing a remarkable recovery after last year's low rainfall and poor growing conditions. The forthcoming hay crop looks better than average, and most farmers will be able to restock the hay reserves that were depleted in many locations last year.

South Central Region (Calgary, Hanna)

Hay crops and pastures got off to an early start and are doing very well as a result of the greater than average rainfall this spring. However, some pastures are still recovering from the low rainfall and heavy grazing that was prevalent in many areas of the region last year. An excellent hay crop is in the making if current conditions prevail. It has been an ideal spring for establishing grasses because of the availability of adequate moisture for even germination.

North Central Region (Red Deer, Wetaskiwin)

Hay crops and pastures are generally good, but vary throughout the region. The extreme eastern areas near Coronation and the northwestern areas near Rocky Mountain House reported pastures were overgrazed because of the late spring. Other areas reported good to

- (cont'd)

Alberta Forage Situation (cont'd)

excellent pasture growth, and an excess of pasture in many places. This may be due to declining cattle herd numbers. Hay supplies should be more than adequate for next winter as a result of an excellent crop, lower herd numbers and a substantial carryover.

Northeast Region (Vermilion, St. Paul)

Hay and pasture crops in this region appear to be about average, if somewhat late. Crops started out slowly because moisture levels were below average in the early spring, but subsequent rains helped to get them going. Hay production in the region is expected to be near average.

Northwest Region (Barrhead, Edmonton)

Poor moisture conditions in the early spring resulted in hay crops and pastures being about a week behind normal. Consequently, pastures are slightly below average because of many instances of premature grazing. Stocking rates appear lower than usual as cattle herd numbers have declined in this region. Hay crops are in average condition, but there have been many reports of winterkill in alfalfa crops. However, the potential is for a good hay crop if the weather co-operates.

Peace River Region (Fairview, Grande Prairie)

Hay crops and pastures are good to excellent in this region. Hay yields could be higher than normal if good weather prevails. However, the late start and cool weather may allow for only one cut of alfalfa in some areas.

July 3, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE RARE BREED

Jim Burns of Cochrane, Alberta, is one of the Canadian farmers and their families that will be featured on a series of CBC television programs called "The Rare Breed". The series will be telecast on Wednesday evenings at 7:30.

It will start off on July 12 with a close-up of Ontario beef producer Ross Procter, who, with his brothers, runs a hard-headed businesslike operation along scientific lines. He and his brothers, like the other men featured in the series, represent a breed of individuals that are much more than farmers. They are enterprising businessmen, scientists, economists, agrologists and marketing experts.

Jim Burns will be featured on the July 19 program. He is a cow-calf operator with a 4,000-acre spread in the foothills of the Rockies. This film, subtitled "Survival" shows the meticulous planning that goes into the successful management of the million-dollar Anchor X ranch, and the year-round work that is necessary to ensure its survival. In addition to producing beef, Jim Burns is a member of a progressive breeders' co-operative called Beefboosters. Beefboosters hopes to produce a strain of range cow that is better suited to the climate of the foothills, and that is capable of calving with a minimum of supervision and assistance.

The subject of "The Rare Breed" July 26 program will be Donald Ziraldo, the 29-year-old president of Inniskillin Wines. He is one of Canada's brightest young entrepreneurs who set out to prove that Canadian wines could compete successful on world markets.

"The Rare Breed" will be pre-empted on August 2 but will return on August 9 with "Farewell Canada Choice". It is the story of Don Walker and his family business, Canada Choice Tomatoes. The Walker family's main problems in sustaining their business of growing and canning tomatoes near Trenton, Ontario, are a shortage of labor and competition from cheap foreign canned tomatoes of a poorer quality than that of tomatoes bearing the Canada Choice label. The flood of cheap canned vegetables from countries as far away as the Far East

- (cont'd) -

The Rare Breed (cont'd)

is posing a serious threat to people like Don Walker who feel that unless the government is prepared to do something about what amounts to using Canada as a dumping ground, he may soon have to close down.

"The Rare Breed" concludes on August 30 with the story of Tom Ellison and Roger Saunders who emigrated from Britain and formed a mixed cattle partnership near East Selkirk in Manitoba. Entitled "Meat and Men", the program sums up much of the philosophy depicted in the series — — that Canada's food producers are committed and determined individualists!

- 30 -

July 3, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNDOING A HERBICIDE APPLICATION MISTAKE

Is there anything that can be done if herbicide drift is deposited on a sensitive crop or plants, or if the wrong herbicide is accidentally applied to a crop or plants?

According to the "Weed Science Newsletter", published by the Co-operative Extension Service of the University of Nebraska in the United States, in many cases the situation can be improved if appropriate corrective action is taken immediately.

Here is what the article advises should be done if spray drift from 2, 4-D, Banvel, Gramoxone or Roundup accidentally gets onto garden plants or ornamentals. Start washing the plants off with water from a garden hose or sprinkler as soon as the spray drift is noticed. It is very important to take this action as soon as the drift is noticed on the plants because it is not likely to be successful if more than three or four hours have elapsed since the plants were first exposed to the herbicide.

If alfalfa is exposed to spray drift from any of the above herbicides, the article recommends cutting it as quickly as possible. It also says sprinkler irrigation water may help.

If an ester formulation of 2, 4-D has been used, the crop must be cut within one or two hours after exposure to the drift. The time limit for 2, 4-D amines, Banvel and Roundup is less critical because they enter plants more slowly than 2, 4-D esters. Corrective measures might be beneficial even after three or four hours. Chances are that a small amount of 2, 4-D or paraquat drift will not inflict permanent damage to an alfalfa stand.

The corrective measures recommended by the article for "Root-Take-Up" herbicides like atrazine, simazine, Bladex, Lorox, Sencor and Lexone are quite different to those recommended for above herbicides. If, for example, the drift from atrazine or simazine lands on turf, the soil will usually have to be removed. If, however, it lands on a small tilled area, the situation can usually be corrected by carefully removing the top one-inch of soil. If there are desirable annual plants growing in the area, dust the soil with activated charcoal. Most deep rooted perennials will survive a small amount of these herbicides without any special treatment.

- (cont'd) -

Undoing a Herbicide Application Mistake (cont'd)

Activated charcoal may also be a useful antidote in cases where atrazine or simazine have entered the soil due to irrigation or rain. Herbicide rates of 4 pounds of active ingredient per acre can be counteracted with one pound of activated charcoal per 100 square feet. The charcoal should be thoroughly incorporated into the soil to a depth of six inches. Such short-term residual herbicides as Lexone, Sencor, Lorox and Bladex should disappear in six months' time if normal or lower than normal rates were used.

It is important to remember that the corrective treatments suggested above may be of only limited value, but unless they are begun very soon after plants have been exposed to a herbicide, they will be of no value.

July 3, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUGGESTIONS FOR PICK-YOUR-OWN MARKET GARDENERS

If you have a pick-your-own type of market garden, you may be interested in some of the things the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food is suggesting to market gardeners in that province.

One of these is to assign specific rows or sections of the field to pickers on a rotational basis. Such a system will give customers access to fresh produce and keep them from covering an area that was picked just a short time before. Although it will require more supervision than just letting the pickers go where they like, they will be delighted with the plentiful supply of produce. It is important to remember that a satified customer is your best form of advertising.

The provision of containers or bags with the operator's name and address printed on them, and perhaps the inclusion of a map giving directions to the farm is another suggestion from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food. They point out that some large-scale operators claim that distinctive packaging shows the product off to its best advantage and encourages customers to come back.

The Ontario ministry also suggests settling on a price at the beginning of the season and maintaining it. They say "When the price is right, pickers become regular patrons."

Still another suggestion is a recording machine hooked up to the telephone to give out information on operating hours, picking conditions, etc. Such a system can save the grower from time-consuming telephone calls and offer a 24-hour service. These recording machines apparently cost about $150.

A parking area within easy access of the produce to be picked will encourage customers who are used to the convenience of the supermarket to come to the farm. Washroom facilities will be appreciated by those who have driven long distances, and an ice cold drink of something, even water, will be appreciated by thirsty pickers.

- (cont'd) -

Suggestions for Pick-Your-Own Market Gardeners (cont'd)

Another idea is to sell things like freezer bags and canning supplies on the premises. If you have such things as honey, eggs and pumpkins, you could sell them along with the freezer and canning supplies.

The above services will make your pick-your-own operation that much more appealing to your customers and encourage them to come back and to tell their friends about it.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARMERS GETTING YOUNGER

Ken Motiuk of Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch says census figures for 1976 show that Canadian farmers are getting younger, and that the same is true for Alberta farmers.

The average age of the Canadian farmer in 1976 was 47.5 years compared with 48.7 years in 1971. Comparable figures for Alberta farmers were 47.1 years in 1976 and 47.9 years in 1971.

Nova Scotia has the oldest farmers in Canada with an average age of almost 50 years. Canada's youngest farmers are in Quebec where the average age is 46.6 years.

- 30 -

JUly 3, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURAL FEATURE SHOW AT EDMONTON EXHIBITION GROUNDS

Remember the Agricultural Feature Show (sponsored by Alberta Agriculture) in the Sales Pavilion when you visit the Edmonton exhibition grounds during Klondike Days.

The "Great Alberta Get Together" is the theme again this year, but the aspect of agriculture that will be featured is the grain industry. It was chosen because of its importance to the Alberta economy and because grain is shipped to so many countries of the world and is used in so many different ways in these countries. This section will also feature games that revolve around the grain industry. They will vary from very simple to very complex, and the prizes will range each day from a simple badge to $1,000!

The other main attractions at the agriculture show will be Agri Prom's Food Fair and the Commonwealth entertainers. Open every day from noon until 11 p.m., the food fair will consist of displays, demonstrations, food samples, food hamper prizes and a restaurant, all highlighting Alberta food products that are produced and processed in the province.

The fair is being sponsored by Agri Prom, an association of 51 Alberta food processing companies whose chief objective is to promote Alberta-produced and processed foods.

The variety of foods that will be available includes lamburgers on buns, special lasagna, spagetti and pizza, Ukrainian dishes and many other specialty items. Complete meals, snacks or a glass of wine - - all Alberta-produced - - will be available. Prices will be very reasonable and the environment will be cool and clean.

The Commonwealth entertainers will be at the Agricultural Feature Show to celebrate the holding of the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton in August. They will include musical groups from the Caribbean, Africa and a number of other countries.

All in all, this year's show promises to be relaxing, enlightening and fun, so be sure you take advantage of this unique opportunity.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE

hone (403) 427-2127

July 3, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLANT SCIENCE FIELD DAY

The University of Alberta's Department of Plant Science will hold its annual field day at Parkland University Farm, 74 Avenue and 114 Street in Edmonton on July 19.

The program will start at 10 a.m. and will include slide-illustrated presentations on "Highlights of Research on Diseases of Rapeseed" by Dr. W. P. Skoropad and on "Comparison of Continuous and Rotational Grazing" by Dr. P. D. Walton.

The afternoon will be devoted to plot tours at the Parkland Farm and the Ellerslie Farm. The plots will include vegetables, ornamentals, forages, field crops and herbicide trials. If it should rain, indoor presentations will be held at Parkland Farm.

Further information on the Department of Plant Science Field Day may be obtained by telephoning 432-3239.

- 30 -

July 3, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEAD OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS SERVICES BRANCH APPOINTED

The director of Alberta Agriculture's economic services division, Mel Cameron, has announced the appointment of A. B. (Sandy) Lauder to the position of head of the regional economic and business services branch in Edmonton.

As head of this branch, Mr. Lauder is responsible for implementing agricultural economics programs in all six regions of the province as well as for co-ordinating and controlling branch activities. He will supervise regional staff who are responsible for providing marketing, business and economic services in their regions.

Mr. Lauder was born and raised in Scotland. He has a B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Glasgow in Scotland and a post-graduate diploma in agriculture (farm management) from the University of Leeds in England. In 1966 he obtained a post-graduate diploma in extension from the University of Reading, also in England.

He has worked on several grain, specialty crop, beef, sheep and dairy farms in Scotland and Switzerland and for a short period in Ontario and Alberta. He was district agriculturist (special emphasis on farm management programs) in Yorkshire, England before emigrating to Canada in 1969.

He joined Alberta Agriculture that year as assistant district agriculturist in Camrose. Later in 1969 he assumed the position of regional farm economist in Red Deer. He was probably best known in that region for his work on income tax, business arrangements and estate planning.

Last November he organized a tour for grain producers from central Alberta of grain handling storage and transportation facilities on the Washington and British Columbia coasts. Last spring he assisted other Alberta Agriculture staff in the region to organize a seminar on moist grain at Lacombe and presented a paper on the economics of moist grain storage systems.

- 30 -

July 3, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT APPOINTED TO DAIRY DIVISION

Fred R. Hutchings, dairy commissioner/director of Alberta Agriculture's dairy division, has announced the appointment of Carolyn M. Osborne to the position of administrative assistant.

Born and raised in Montreal, Quebec, Ms. Osborne obtained her B.Sc. in 1968 from McGill University where she majored in psychology with a minor in mathematics. Upon graduation, she obtained employment with a doctor of psychiatry. After his death, she decided to go West and arrived in Calgary in 1974.

While in Calgary, Ms. Osborne acquired experience in property management (Guinness family holdings) and oil, specifically the federally owned Petro-Canada. During her employment with Petro-Canada, she worked as executive secretary to the vice-president in charge of land, and, for the past year and one half, as administrative assistant to the senior vice-president of project development. In this latter position, she was responsible for a variety of duties including project and operating budgeting, cash forecasting, the preparation of reports for management and generally keeping her employer informed on the financial status of his corporate concerns.

- 30 -

July 3, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMING AGRICULTURAL EVENTS

1978

Provincial Agriculture Service Board Tour
Consort, Alberta . . . . July 5 - 7

The Second World Simmental Congress
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Grounds
Calgary, Alberta . . . . July 5 - 11

Canadian Seed Growers' Association
Annual Meeting
Holiday Inn, London Towers
London, Ontario . . . . July 6 - 7

Calgary Stampede
Calgary Exhibition Grounds
Calgary, Alberta . . . . July 7 - 16

Fourth International Pinzgauer Cattle Congress
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Grounds
Calgary, Alberta . . . . July 8 - 23

Canadian Seed Trade Association Convention
Holiday Inn, London Towers
London, Ontario . . . . July 9 - 11

Canadian Veterinary Medical Association
Annual Convention
Regina Inn
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . July 9 - 12

Canadian Egg Producers Council and Canadian Egg Marketing Agency
Charlottetown Hotel
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island . . . . July 10 - 12

Interprovincial Pools Meeting
Marlborough Inn
Winnipeg, Manitoba. . . . . July 12 - 14

The Palliser Wheat Growers Association and the Lethbridge Agriculture Center
Producer Information Seminar
Lethbridge, Alberta. . . . . July 13 - 14

"Whoop-Up Days" Lethbridge and District Association
Exhibition and Fair Grounds
Lethbridge, Alberta. . . . . July 17 - 22

- (cont'd) -

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Red Deer Fair
Red Deer Exhibition Grounds
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . July 17 - 23

Canadian Hereford Association
National Designated Mark of Excellence Show
Red Deer Exhibition Grounds
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . July 18

Sheep Scene '78
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . July 19 - 22

1978 Klondike Days
Edmonton Exhibition Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . July 19 - 29

Canadian Galloway Association Annual Meeting
El Ron Inn
Flesherton, Ontario . . . . July 21 - 22

Eighth International Sunflower Conference
Leamington Hotel
Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S.A. . . . . July 23 - 27

Western Weed Tours:
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Manitoba . . . . July 24
Brandon Research Station
Brandon, Manitoba . . . . July 25
Regina Research Station
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . July 26
Melfort Research Station
Melfort, Saskatchewan . . . . July 27
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan . . . . July 28
Vegreville Solonetzic Soil Substation
Vegreville, Alberta . . . . July 31
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . July 31
Lacombe Research Station
Lacombe, Alberta . . . . August 1
Alberta Horticultural Research Center
Brooks, Alberta . . . . August 2
Lethbridge Research Station
Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . August 2

Canadian Home Economics Association Convention
Convention Centre
Calgary, Alberta . . . . July 25 - 29

The Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede
Medicine Hat Stampede Park
Medicine Hat, Alberta . . . . July 26 - 29

- (cont'd) -

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Canadian Agriculture Economics Society and American Agriculture Economics Association Blacksburg, Virginia, U.S.A.	August 6 7
Annual Potato Field Days Brooks Horticultural Center Brooks, Alberta	August 9 - 10
Tenth American Barley Research Workers Conference University of Saskatchewan Saskatoon, Saskatchewan	August 13 - 17
International Symposium on Protein Utilization University of Guelph Guelph, Ontario	August 13 - 16
Canadian Society of Extension Conference New Brunswick	August 19 - 23
Fourth World Conference on Animal Production Buenos Aires, Argentina	August 20 - 26
Second International Green Crop Dehydration Congress - Dri-Crops '78 University of Saskatchewan Saskatoon, Saskatchewan	August 20 - 25
Annual Field Day Alberta Horticultural Research Center Brooks, Alberta	August 25
Canadian Hatchery Federation Convention Holiday Inn Winnipeg, Manitoba.	August 28 - 31
Sixth International Cereal and Bread Congress Winnipeg, Manitoba.	September 16 - 22
World Poultry Congress Notel Nacional Rio de Janiero, Brazil	September 17 - 21
Western Canada Farm Management and Extension Workshops Palliser Hotel Calgary, Alberta	September 18 - 20

- (cont'd) -

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Feed Industry Conference
Palliser Hotel
Calgary, Alberta . . . . September 21 - 22

Canadian Extension Council
Quebec City, Quebec. . . . . September 26 - 28

International Plowing Match
Wingham, Ontario . . . . September 26 - 30

"A Challenge for Change in Third World Agriculture" seminar
Jubilee Auditorium
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . September 28 - 29

Poultry Servicemen's Workshop
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta . . . . October 2 - 4

The Canada Grains Council
Semi-annual meeting
Palliser Hotel
Calgary, Alberta . . . . October 17 - 18

Alberta Agricultural Hall of Fame Banquet and Presentations
Calgary Inn
Calgary, Alberta . . . . .October 18

1978 Agriculture Week
Alberta . . . . October 22 - 28

Third World Congress of Animal Feeding and International Veterinary Association
Madrid, Spain . . . . October 23 - 27

Canada Weed Committee
East Meeting
Holiday Inn
Windsor, Ontario . . . . October 25 - 26

Integrated Management of Resources
Bayshore Inn
Vancouver, B.C. . . . . .November 2 - 4

Northern Alberta Hereford Club
Annual Meeting
Forestburg, Alberta . . . . November 4

- (cont'd) -

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Women of Unifarm Annual Convention
Sheraton Calgary Hotel
Calgary, Alberta . . . . .November 7 - 8

Farmfair '78
Edmonton Exhibition Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . .November 7 - 17

Potato Seed Growers Association of Alberta
Annual Meeting
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . November 15

Alberta Potato Growers Association
Annual Meeting
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . November 16

Alberta Potato Commission
Annual Meeting
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . November 17

Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen
Annual Meeting and In-Service Training
Sandman Inn
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . .November 21 - 24

Alberta Polled Hereford Club
Annual Meeting
Red Deer Lodge
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . December 10

1978 American Society of Agricultural
Engineering Winter Meeting
Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A. . . . . .December 18 - 21

Alberta Irrigation Projects Association
Annual Meeting
El Rancho Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . .December

The Royal Smithfield Show
Earls Court
London, England . . . . .December

- (cont'd) -

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

	1979
Palliser Wheat Growers Association Ninth Annual Convention Hotel Saskatchewan Regina, Saskatchewan	January 3 - 5
Unifarm Annual Convention Macdonald Hotel Edmonton, Alberta	January 8 - 12
Western Agricultural Conference Sheraton Centre Regina Saskatchewan	January 25 - 26
Alberta Dairymen's Association Annual Convention Palliser Hotel Calgary, Alberta	February 5 - 7
Alberta Agricultural Service Board Convention Hotel Macdonald Edmonton, Alberta	February 5 - 7
Alberta Poultry Hatchery Association Mayfield Inn Edmonton, Alberta	February 12
Alberta Poultry Industry Conference (28th) Mayfield Inn Edmonton, Alberta	February 13 - 14
Alberta Commercial Egg Producers Association Mayfield Inn Edmonton, Alberta	February 14
Alberta Hatching Egg Producers Association Mayfield Inn Edmonton, Alberta	February 14
Alberta Egg and Fowl Marketing Board Mayfield Inn Edmonton, Alberta	February 15
Alberta Turkey Growers Marketing Board Mayfield Inn Edmonton, Alberta	February 15

- (cont'd) -

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Alberta Turkey Association Mayfield Inn Edmonton, Alberta	February 15
Ag-Expo '79 (Agricultural Fair) Lethbridge Exhibition Grounds Lethbridge, Alberta	March 7 - 10
Canadian Western Stock Show and Sale and Superodeo Edmonton Exhibition Grounds Edmonton, Alberta	March 25 - 31
Canadian Institute of Food Science and Technology Annual Conference Quebec City, Quebec	May 26 - 29
American Society of Agricultural Engineers/Canadian Society of Agricultural Engineering Joint Annual Meeting University of Manitoba Winnipeg, Manitoba	June 24 - 27
International Congress of Agricultural Engineering Michigan State University East Lansing, Michigan, U.S.A.	July 7 - 11
1979 Klondike Days Edmonton Exhibition Grounds Edmonton, Alberta	July 18 - 28
Agricultural Institute of Canada Annual Convention New Brunswick	August 19 - 23
Canadian Society of Agricultural Engineering and American Society of Agricultural Engineering Joint Conference Winnipeg, Manitoba	August
Seventeenth Tri-Annual International Conference of Agricultural Economists Banff Centre Banff, Alberta	September 5 - 15
Feed Industry Conference Convention Inn South Edmonton, Alberta	September 20 - 21
Farmfair '79 Edmonton Exhibition Grounds Edmonton, Alberta	November 6 - 16

AGRI-NEWS

AL 1.691
~~AL/A37/A16/A37/78-7-10~~

July 10, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Western Provinces 4-H Seminar 1

Tax Considerations when Relocating a Farm Business. 2

Fababeans Need Plenty of Moisture 4

Ask for Research Results Before Buying 6

Choosing A Silo. 7

First Goat Auction Sale. 9

Northern Bus Tour 10

Director of Animal Industry Division Appointed 12

Regional Farm Economists Appointed 13

Home Economics Branch Appointments. 15

CANADIAN OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS
DES PUBLICATIONS OFFICIELLES
NATIONAL LIBRARY | BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

Phone (403) 427-2127

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WESTERN PROVINCES 4-H SEMINAR

A picnic on the Sturgeon River in 1895

"The Pioneer Lifestyle that Developed Western Canada" is the theme of the Western Provinces 4-H Seminar that is being held in Alberta this year from August 4 - 12.

The seminar will be attended by 12 delegates from each of the four western provinces. They are 4-H members between the ages of 14 and 18 who were chosen because of their outstanding achievements in 4-H.

On August 5 the delegates and 4-H staff will embark upon a four-day, 320 km canoe trip down the North Saskatchewan River. They will start from Nordegg and end up at Genesee, which is about 96 km southwest of Edmonton.

During the four-day trip the delegates will camp on the river banks, learn canoeing skills and experience the way many of our ancestors transported themselves and their goods from one place to another. Staff members will hold informal sessions along the route to expose the delegates to pioneer lifestyles. These will include discussions with actual pioneers and the exploration of historical sites.

At the end of the trip, the delegates will be bused into Edmonton to participate in some of the Commonwealth Games' activities.

July 10, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TAX CONSIDERATIONS WHEN RELOCATING A FARM BUSINESS

Farmers contemplating a farm transfer in which a large capital gain is involved are advised to seek advice before embarking on the transaction.

Information received to date indicates that there is still no definite ruling on the Replacement Property Provision which affects farm transfers. It was initiated in last year's federal budget to allow the "rollover" of business assets when these assets are replaced by similar assets within a specific time. The basic rules are as follows:

- the assets must be property that was a business property immediately before disposition,
- the replacement asset must be purchased before the end of the first taxation year following the disposition of the original asset,
- a letter of election (notification of intent) must be filed,
- the replacement asset must be acquired for the same use as the former asset, and
- the replacement asset must be used in the same business as the former asset.

Farm land that is being share-cropped would not qualify under these rules, nor would rented property unless the owner was in the rental business.

"Recent tremors from Ottawa have stimulated concern regarding the relocation of farm businesses," says George Geldart, taxation specialist with Alberta Agriculture. He points out that the concern has arisen from statements made to the effect that the replacement farm must be used for exactly the same purpose as the orginal farm.

The last of the five rules stated above is the basis for this concern. "Because farming can be broken down into various specific enterprises, there may be problems in deferring capital gains and tax if a change in the type of farm operation occurs from the original farm to the replacement farm," Mr. Geldart says. For example, the selling out of a dairy farm and the

- (cont'd) -

Tax Considerations When Relocating a Farm Business (cont'd)

buying of a replacement farm that is entirely a grain operation is likely to present problems. On the other hand, the selling of a piece of land used for mixed agricultural purposes (e.g. income is received from grain, hogs and feeders) and the buying of a replacement farm along similar lines would probably be accepted.

In addition, if a replacement farm is purchased for less than what the original farm was sold for, there could be some tax liability on the capital gain. The amount of this liability would depend upon the difference between the sale price of the original farm and the purchase price of the replacement farm.

It is because of the present complications in the Replacement Property Provision that Mr. Geldart recommends that farmers planning to exchange one farm for another first consult their accountant, regional farm economist or a member of the Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture, P. O. Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0.

- 30 -

July 10, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FABABEANS NEED PLENTY OF MOISTURE

Fababeans require a continuous supply of moisture until early fall if they are to produce optimum yields. After they are 45 centimetres tall, they may require to be irrigated every week if the weather is hot and dry.

Maximum yields were obtained in tests carried out by the federal research station at Lethbridge's Vauxhall irrigation substation on sandy loam soil when six irrigations were used in 1974, three in 1975 (a wet year), six in 1976 and seven in 1977 between the third week of June and the third week of August.

According to Dr. K.K. Krogman, soil scientist at the Lethbridge station, irrigation carried out after July 15 is more important than earlier irrigation. When averaged for the four-year test period, the yield from the fababeans ranged from 1,426 pounds per acre without irrigation to 2,417 pounds per acre when irrigated to mid-July and 4,062 pounds per acre when irrigated to about August 25. The additional yield resulting from irrigating to mid-July was 78 pounds per acre per cm of extra irrigation water and another 69 pounds per acre per cm of extra irrigation water when the irrigation was continued until August 25. The total water used, including rainfall and stored moisture under continued irrigation average 49.3 cm. The greatest daily use averaged 9 mm during the last week of July and the first week of August.

Fababeans need adequate moisture throughout the growing season because they continue to produce flowers and remain green and actively transpiring until early fall. (Mature pods and flowers occur on the same plant under favorable growing conditions). A drought at any time during the growing season will cause the flowers to fall, thereby reducing seed yield. A continuous supply of water is also necessary for full development of the seed.

- (cont'd) -

Fababeans Need Plenty of Moisture (cont'd)

Although irrigation must be frequent, it can be light because fababeans have shallow roots. In the above tests 6.4 cm of water brought the available moisture level in the root zone up to field capacity. Irrigation would have to be more frequent on sandy soils because they hold less water then the sandy loam on which the tests were conducted and less frequent on heavier soils which would hold more water.

July 10, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASK FOR RESEARCH RESULTS BEFORE BUYING

Do not rely on testimonials if you are approached to buy an additive to preserve grass or legume silage. "Ask to see the research results first," advises Ross Gould, livestock supervisor with Alberta Agriculture.

Most research indicates that additives are not necessary for silage as long as you use good silage making techniques. When it is necessary to make silage under adverse weather conditions, it may be a good idea to use some type of acid preservative.

"If you feel that an acid preservative is needed, you would be wise to use an acid-based product," Mr. Gould says. "Research trials have shown that propionic acid is probably your best bet."

The following procedure is recommended for making good silage.

- Harvest the material at the correct stage of growth.
- Use a fine chop (1/4 - 1/2 inch).
- Fill the silo rapidly.
- Distribute the material evenly and pack it well if the silo is a horizontal type.
- Seal all silos to exclude air.
- Allow the material to wilt to 60 per cent before chopping to prevent moisture and nutrient loss.

- 30 -

July 10, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHOOSING A SILO

If you are planning to build or buy a silo, choose one that will fit into your complete forage handling and feeding system. Under good management, there is little difference in the quality of silage produced by any of them.

In fact, with proper management good silage can even be made in a stack. Hay crop silages have been made in stacks without any packing for several years at the federal experimental station at La Pocatiere, Quebec. Losses have ranged from 4.5 to 17.8 per cent.

There are three basic types of silos: the horizontal, the conventional vertical or tower silo and the oxygen-limiting tower silo. There are, of course, variations in these basic types. However, there is no silo on the market that will increase the feeding value of the material that is ensiled. The best any silo can do is to minimize nutrient losses during fermentation and storage.

Even under ideal conditions about 5 per cent of the dry matter put into any type of silo will be lost during the fermentation process. However, losses frequently go as high as 15 or 20 per cent because of poor management and, it is possible to lose the whole crop if any of the basic principles of silage making are neglected.

The most important factor in minimizing losses in a silo is to limit the penetration of the ensiled material by air. Care must be taken to minimize exposure of the material to air even in an oxygen-limiting silo. Losses can occur, for example, if the filling door is left open at night during the filling process.

An important factor that is often overlooked with horizontal silos is the covering of the face with plastic at night and on days when filling is interrupted by bad weather. Sealing the surface of a horizontal or a conventional tower silo must be done as soon as filling has been completed.

- (cont'd) -

Choosing a Silo (cont'd)

Among the factors that influence the ease of air penetration into ensiled material are the moisture content of the crop and the fineness of the chop. It is possible to store a drier crop with a coarser chop in an oxygen-limiting silo than it is in a conventional tower or a horizontal silo because the structure keeps out the air. With an imperfectly sealed tower silo it is safer to ensile a wetter crop and to chop more finely. Such material will limit air penetration around poorly fitting doors and through cracks.

Oxygen-limiting silos are mainly used for storing high dry matter silage (40 to 50 per cent) with minimum risk of heat damage or heavy dry matter losses. It is easier with this type of silo to add additional silage as different crops are ready for harvesting. As is the case with conventional tower silos, it is easy to mechanize the unloading and feeding from these silos.

Conventional tower silos are most suitable for silage with an intermediate dry matter content (30 to 40 per cent). Great care must be taken to ensure the silo is kept reasonably airtight and to make sure the crop is not overwilted when harvested. A fine chop and an even distribution when the silo is being filled are also important.

Horizontal silos are usually used for storing low dry matter silage (25 to 35 per cent) and are especially good for reducing the capital investment in storage facilities for a large cattle herd. Their capacity is flexible and they can be filled quickly. Feeding can be done with a front-end loader and a forage wagon or with high capacity, specialized equipment.

According to Alberta Agriculture's forage crops specialist, Larry Gareau the big advantage of a horizontal silo is the much lower investment cost. "If a person is prepared to give the proper attention to silage management details, the feed in a horizontal silo can be just as good and storage losses just as low as they would be in an expensive tower silo," he says.

July 10, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIRST GOAT AUCTION SALE

If you are looking for a goat of any type or age, the chances are you will find it at Alberta's first goat auction sale, scheduled to take place at the Wetaskiwin auction market at 1:00 p.m. on July 22.

Leslie Steem, secretary of the Alberta Goat Breeders Association, expects between 150 and 200 goats to pass through the ring at this first auction in a series of monthly auction sales to be held in Wetaskiwin. He says the goats will be all sizes, ages and types (meat and dairy). Some will be milking does, some will be registered goats and others will be grade animals.

It was decided to hold an auction sale every month for the next few months because the interest and demand for goats is increasing very rapidly. Mr. Steem has received enquiries for goats from Saskatchewan and British Columbia as well as from many parts of Alberta.

Goat breeders who would like to enter animals in the Wetaskiwin auction sale on July 22 should telephone 387-4435 or contact Leslie Steem, R. R. No. 1, Leduc.

- 30 -

July 10, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NORTHERN BUS TOUR

Twenty-five people are on a special bus tour of the north. Their destination is Yellowknife.

Who are they and why are they going north? Eighteen of them are members of 4-H clubs from across Alberta. Four are 4-H leaders, one is a member of the 4-H staff and two are young people from the Northwest Territories. They are all on a two-week camping trip, sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, which will take them through the Peace River area, and along the famous Mackenzie Highway to Yellowknife with stops at Hay River, Fort Smith and Pine Point. Their objective is to meet people in the Northwest Territories, to share the 4-H program with them and to gain first-hand knowledge about that region.

The 4-H members who are on the bus tour were chosen under the 1978 Provincial Selections Program. They are

Wes Nimco — Colinton
Christine Unruh — Vauxhall
Donna Wray — Irricana
Arlyn Herbst — Warner
Allen Leighton — Ponoka
Frances Lema — St. Albert
Elaine Miller — Westlock
Karen Skibsted — Rosebud
Grant Bruner — Evansburg
Suzanne Bilodeau — Vimy
Darrel Burdeck — Lac La Biche
Colette Christensen — Magrath
Laura Davies — Duffield
Dwayne Dowell — Carstairs
Marjorie Bokenfohr — St. Albert
Helen Schwenk — Coronation
Michael Gray — Claresholm
Susan Stitzenberger — Edson

The 4-H leaders who are chaperoning the trip are:

Mr. Ray Burris — Winfield
Mrs. Edith Kowalski — Bon Accord
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Lee — Foremost

- (cont'd) -

Northern Bus Tour (cont'd)

Grant Fletcher, TV coordinator for the 4-H branch, is the staff representative.

The two young people from the Northwest Territories are Marie Swanson of Fort Smith and Douglas Lamalice of Hay River, both of whom spent about 10 days with host families in Alberta before returning north with the tour group.

- 30 -

July 10, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DIRECTOR OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY DIVISION APPOINTED

The deputy minister of agriculture, Dr. J. G. O'Donoghue, has announced the appointment of J. S. "Sid" Lore as director of the animal industry division.

Mr. Lore, formerly head of the beef cattle and sheep branch, will be responsible for overseeing the activities of the animal industry division, which comprises branches dealing with beef cattle, sheep, poultry, pork and horses.

Born in Bassano in 1928, John Sidney Lore grew up in a ranching family, and after local schooling took a general agricultural program at Olds Agricultural College, graduating in 1948. He went on to study animal sciences for a B.Sc. at the University of Alberta. After five years as district agriculturist in Lac la Biche, he served as feed representative for Canada Packers for two years and returned to Alberta Agriculture in 1959 to introduce the new Record of Performance Program for beef cattle. In January 1974, after a course at the Banff School of Advanced Management, he became head of the Beef Cattle and Sheep Branch.

In 1976 Mr. Lore spent five months as a livestock consultant with the Canadian International Development Agency in Indonesia, advising on the potential for cattle and water buffalo under local conditions. For the past three years he has administered Alberta Agriculture's Cow-Calf Program of subsidies to beef producers.

Mr. Lore and his wife Nora, a registered nurse at the Misericordia Hospital, live in Edmonton. They have five children aged 11 to 25 years, and enjoy outdoor activities, particularly cross-country skiing.

- 30 -

July 10, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REGIONAL FARM ECONOMISTS APPOINTED

Sandy Lauder, the new head of Alberta Agriculture's regional economic and business services branch, has announced the appointments of G. J. (Garry) Bradshaw and A. M. (Mac) Harvey to the positions of regional farm economist at Red Deer and Lethbridge respectively.

In their new positions they will work with a team of regional specialists and district extension staff in their respective regions to plan, implement and conduct agricultural economic and marketing education programs. They will also plan and co-ordinate regional economic research studies and surveys and provide assistance and information in the areas of farm management, marketing and statistics to specialized producer groups, agricultural committees, farm organizations and businesses serving the agricultural secor as well as to individual farm families. They will work closely with other Alberta Agriculture staff in the marketing and economic services divisions on analyzing, implementing and reporting trends and developments in their regions and the consequent economic implications.

Garry Bradshaw

Mr. Bradshaw comes from a mixed farm in Ontario. He has a civil engineering diploma from Ryerson Institute of Technology, Ontario (1954); a B.Sc. (soil science) from the University of Guelph, Ontario (1969) and an M.Sc. (agricultural economics) also from the University of Guelph (1971).

Before coming to Alberta in 1975, Mr. Bradshaw worked with a Toronto consulting firm on displays and designs and did field surveying of hydrological projects. He also worked for Canfarm at Guelph. Here he was responsible for developing and maintaining the new Canfarm Version III Record System that is in use today.

Mr. Bradshaw came to Alberta as the senior Canfarm representative for the province. In this position he worked closely with Alberta Agriculture staff and was responsible

- (cont'd) -

Regional Farm Economists Appointed (cont'd)

for helping the private business sector (accountants, consultants, etc.) to use the Canfarm recording system and to fit it into their management programs.

Mac Harvey

Mr. Harvey is a native of Scotland where he spent five years working on various types of farms before going to the University of Newcastle in England. He graduated in 1953 with a first class honors B.Sc. (animal science and agricultural economics) degree.

Between 1953 and 1955, he was an assistant district agriculturist in England. He then joined Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI) in England as a farm management representative. He came to Canada as a senior marketing representative of the agricultural division of ICI in 1969 to head up a team of five who were responsible for expanding fertilizer and pesticide sales. He then joined Canadian Industries Limited (CIL) as a farm management representative and was responsible for establishing and operating a farm management resource unit which provided cost benefit evidence to support sales of seeds, pesticides, fertilizers and feeds through CIL retail outlets.

Mr. Harvey joined Alberta Agriculture in 1973 as an agricultural economist with the farm business management branch. In this position he worked on farm record analysis. The following year he became supervisor of the farm planning section of the farm business management branch, and his responsibilities included indentifying farmers' business planning needs and developing, testing, delivering and promoting planning aids.

July 10, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOME ECONOMICS BRANCH APPOINTMENTS

Vera Macdonald, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, has announced the following appointments.

Judy Lloyd

Mrs. Lloyd has been appointed regional home management specialist at Airdrie and will serve the southern half of the province. Her appointment becomes effective September 1. She will fill the position formerly held by Jean Wilson who has been promoted to provincial home management specialist.

Mrs. Lloyd joined Alberta Agriculture in 1969 and was appointed district home economist at Claresholm where she remained until 1971 when she married and moved to Quebec. She rejoined Alberta Agriculture in 1973 as district home economist at Strathmore. In 1977 she transferred to the Calgary office.

Linda St. Onge

Mrs. St. Onge has been appointed to the position of assistant food and nutrition specialist at the home economics laboratory in Edmonton. She is a University of Alberta graduate and has taken the courses for an M.Sc. (nutrition) . She is the vice-president of the Canadian Home Economics Association.

June Edwards

Mrs. Edwards has been appointed district home economist at Westlock where she will replace LuEllen Morton who is resigning to be married. Mrs. Edwards' appointment becomes effective in August. She has been district home economist at Thorhild since 1973.

Ruth Jameson

Miss Jameson has been appointed district home economist at Claresholm where she will replace Corinne Gattinger who is resigning to be married. Miss Jameson's appointment became effective July 1. Prior to that she was a trainee at the Leduc extension office.

- (cont'd)

Home Economics Branch Appointments (cont'd)

Susann Guidinger

Mrs. Guidinger has been appointed district home economist at Fairview. She replaces Patricia Carter who has resigned. Prior to her present appointment, Mrs. Guidinger was in training at the district home economics office in Drumheller.

The following four district home economist trainees started their training period on June 6.

Patricia McMurty

Miss McMurtry is in training at Brooks. She comes from Saskatchewan and received her B.S.H.Ec. from the University of Saskatchewan in 1978. Her summer work experience has included a job at the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton, part-time employment at the Hudson's Bay Company in Saskatoon and employment with Gulf Oil Canada in Edmonton.

Maureen Barnes

Miss Barnes is in training at Three Hills. She was born in British Columbia, but grew up in Edmonton. She graduated from the University of Alberta with B.Sc. (home economics) in 1978, having majored in family studies. Her summer employment has included a job with Alberta Recreation, Parks and Wildlife as a horticulturist in the Cypress Hills provincial park.

Diane Berger-Henengouwen

Miss Bergen-Henengouwen is in training at Red Deer. She grew up in Picture Butte and received her B.Sc. (home economics) from the University of Alberta in 1978. She graduated with distinction, having majored in clothing and textiles. She has spent her summers working on her father's farm, as a dietecic aid at the Lethbridge municipal hospital, and as a textile analyst for the University of Alberta's textile analysis service. She also designed, made and transported educational displays on textile analysis to various fairs in Alberta.

- (cont'd) -

Home Economics Branch Appointments (cont'd)

Dawn Kelly

[illegible] Kelly is in training at High Prairie. She comes from Ontario and took the first two years of university at the University of Guelph in Ontario. She took the other two at the University of Alberta and graduated with a B. Sc. (home economics) in 1978. Her summer work has included working as a store clerk, a laborer for a construction company, a textile laboratory maintenance employee and an Alberta Hospital volunteer.

- 30 -

AL.1.671

AGRI-NEWS

[illegible] 1978

July 17, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Horn Flies Cause Substantial Economic Losses 1

Heavier Hogs Causing Concern 3

"Insect Pests of Alberta" 4

Hay Losses and Round Balers 5

Improved Herbicide Performance 6

Artificial Insemination for Horses 8

Subsurface Tile Drainage Installation 9

Olds College Alumni Diamond Jubilee 10

Interprovincial 4-H Exchange 11

Care for House Plants at Vacation Time 12

Jams for the Freezer 13

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

Phone (403) 427-2127

July 17, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HORN FLIES CAUSE SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC LOSSES

If you have not treated your cattle to protect them against horn flies, you could be losing a lot of money.

A research project carried out on sandhill range cattle in Nebraska in 1974 showed the average weight of 257 steer calves from a treated cow herd was 386.66 pounds compared with 373.74 pounds for calves from a group of untreated animals. Since the average weaned steer calf price at the Omaha Livestock Exchange was $44.53 per hundredweight that year, the average price increase for the calves from the treated cows was about $5.75 per calf. The cost of treating the cows ranged from 90¢ to $1.10 per animal, depending upon the type of bag and product used, etc. Hence, the return from each $1 spent to achieve horn fly control was about $4.75.

Since horn flies do not usually attack calves in any number, unless the fly population on the older animals is extremely high, the higher gains recorded for the calves from treated cows are believed to have resulted from their getting more milk than calves from untreated animals.

Although treatment against horn flies should be started in the spring, it is not too late to do something about the problem now. There are a number of ways of treating cattle, one of which is the dust bag. It is one of the more practical, efficient and economical methods, according to Michael Dolinski, entomologist and pest control specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

To use this form of treatment, it will probably be necessary to fence off the area surrounding the watering place or the salt lick so that the cattle can only reach it through one entrance. You should hang a large canvas-covered dust bag (available commercially) across the entrance so that it can swing freely. It should be low enough to ensure that the cattle will

- (cont'd) -

Horn Flies cause Substantial Economic Losses (cont'd)

have to bump it with their shoulders to get through the entrance. It should also be large enough to cover the width of the entrance, and it should be hung with rope rather than wire because rope is easier on the bag.

Some people believe that dust bags will work just as effectively when used on a free choice basis, but Mr. Dolinski disagrees. He says the only way to guarantee effective control is through the forced use of a dust bag.

The reason so many commerical cattlemen are losing so much production through horn flies is because the cattlemen do not realize that the flies, in addition to interrupting feeding, are continually taking blood from the cattle. The flies feed mainly on the belly line of the animals and take up to 10 meals of blood per day.

In case you are wondering how you can tell whether your cattle are being attacked by horn flies or some other type of fly, here is a description of the former.

Horn flies are similar to house flies except that they are about half the size. On warm days they are most frequently observed sitting on the backs and shoulders of infested cattle and are especially prevalent on bulls. Because of the sun's reflection on their wings, they give the appearance of a shiny surface from a distance.

Horn flies spend all their time on the host animal except for a short period when they leave to lay their eggs. These are laid in the manure as soon as it is dropped. The flies then return to the host animal. On a cool day they are more evident on the sides of the animal than on its back.

Mr. Dolinski reports that research carried out at the federal experimental station at Lethbridge confirms that economic losses from horn flies in this province are very substantial and that the provincial government is carrying out a number of farm trials in central and southern Alberta to test the effectiveness of various types of dust bags and insecticides.

July 17, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEAVIER HOGS CAUSING CONCERN

The dramatic increase in the proportion of heavier hogs being marketed in Canada is causing real concern to pork packers who have to process and market the heavier cuts, according to the general manager of the Meat Packers Council of Canada, H. K. Leckie.

The average market weight of hogs has increased substantially since January of this year as a result of the new higher indexes for carcasses weighing over 180 pounds. The percentage of carcasses weighing over 180 pounds in 1976 and 1977 was about 10 per cent compared with nearly 30 per cent this year in several of the provinces and higher in some.

Even though a good many of these carcasses have been fairly lean in type, they still presented quite a challenge to the meat packing industry in the merchandizing of heavier cuts at a time when the general meat price level is relatively high, and consumers are looking for pork and other meat packaged in smaller, more economical and convenient units. According to Mr. Leckie, the total cost of the package quite often decides what a consumer will buy and the number of major meat items that go into her shopping cart.

Heavier hogs invariably produce heavier bellies which slice up into longer, wider, less attractive bacon even with a lot of extra trimming. The sides are too big for the standard bacon presses, and the slices are outsized for packaging, which means fewer slices per package. With 30 per cent heavier hogs, processors get a significantly lower yield of top brand bacon. This means a lower economic return and an adverse effect on the market acceptability of bacon.

Heavier hogs also produce hams, picnics and loins which weigh considerably more than the pork system is used to handling. With today's higher prices consumers are getting very conscious of what a half semi-boneless skinned ham or picnic shoulder costs compared with a light turkey or other substitute. It takes time to adjust to a heavier product and to develop ways of presenting it attractively. In the meantime, there is a danger of Canada losing its traditional reputation of producing pork that is superior to the heavier, fatter U. S. pork.

- 30 -

July 17, 1978
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"INSECT PESTS OF ALBERTA"

Are you involved in insect control? Are you often unsure of the type of insect you are dealing with or the type of damage you can expect from it? If so, you will be interested to know that Alberta now has a reference handbook on insect pests.

Designed especially for farmers, home gardeners, nurserymen, greenhouse operators and professional pest control specialists, "Insect Pests of Alberta" was written by Hugh Philip, head of the entomology section of Alberta Agriculture's plant industry laboratory, in response to numerous requests for such a book. Teachers, students, extension workers and others involved with insects will find the book most useful.

There are estimated to be about 25,000 species of insects in Alberta, of which only 8,000 have been identified. "Insect Pests of Alberta" covers those insects which Mr. Philip considers to be the most common and/or economically significant. His assessment is based on the types of insects submitted to the entomology section for identification and his personal field investigations of numerous insect problems.

In his book he describes the adult and immature stages of each insect covered in the book and gives a brief description of the food hosts and the type of damage the insects cause. The photographs were chosen on the basis of their value in helping the reader to recognize the various insects and the characteristic damage they do.

The book does not contain chemical control recommendations because application rates, use patterns and available products often change from one year to the next. Up-to-date information on controlling an insect,once it has been identified, can be obtained from Alberta Agriculture's extension offices, Agriculture Canada's research station at Lethbridge, the University of Alberta and the Northern Forest Research Centre.

"Insect Pests of Alberta" costs only $4.75 and is available from the University of Alberta Bookstore, Student Union Building,114 Street and 89 Avenue, Edmonton, T6G 2J7.

- 30 -

July 17, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HAY LOSSES AND ROUND BALERS

When four round balers were tested under different crop conditions by the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute (PAMI) in 1977, losses ranged from 6.7 per cent all the way to 37.5 per cent of total yield, depending upon crop conditions and yield.

The lower losses were recorded in a field of alfalfa, brome and crested wheat grass which yielded 1.9 tons per acre and which was harvested when drying conditions were excellent The higher losses were recorded in a crop of second-cut alfalfa which yielded 1.3 tons per acre and which had received 15 mm of precipitation and had been turned once with a rake before it was baled. Since the losses consisted mostly of leaves, it was felt that they represented somewhere between 10 and 40 per cent of the total crude protein yield of the crop.

No significant difference in loss characteristics was observed among the four balers tested, two of which were ground roll models and two of which were pick-up balers with an expanding chamber design. Losses seem to be mainly influenced by the condition and yield of the crop. They may be minimized through the use of wide windrows or by combining two or more windrows and operating the machine at a high feed rate. This procedure reduces the length of time the bale is in the bale chamber.

Studies carried out by PAMI on the weatherability of round bales showed that low density bales settled approximately 26 per cent after 100 days of outdoor storage compared with only 6 to 9 per cent for high density bales. Although moisture penetration as indicated by discoloration of the hay was more substantial in the low density bales, it is not certain how significantly it reduced the overall feed value of the bale.

- 30 -

July 17, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IMPROVED HERBICIDE PERFORMANCE

Are you completely satisfied with your herbicide spraying results? If not, could it be that you did not use latest recommended application techniques or the proper equipment?

According to Alberta Agriculture's weed control branch, nozzle selection, volume of solution applied per acre and timing are all important aspects of a successful spraying program.

Nozzle Selection

Apart from the application of Avadex BW, Trefland, Cobex and other soil applied herbicides, the tapered flat fan nozzle gives superior results in nearly all farm spraying situations. However, if spraying is being done close to sensitive crops or near the farmyard, special drift control nozzles may be desirable.

Alberta Agriculture's weed control specialists say the 80 degree tapered flat fan nozzle in what is commonly referred to as the 10 gallon size is markedly superior for all-round use when applying most foliar herbicides in Alberta. These nozzles are available in brass, stainless steel and nylon. The best choice is either stainless steel or nylon because they wear better.

When Stampede was applied with a tapered flat fan type nozzle, a 12 to 17 per cent improvement in results was noted compared with the same solution applied with flooding fans. When results obtained from the tapered flat fan type nozzles were compared with those obtained from hollow cone nozzles, the improvement was 100 per cent.

Water Volume

Most herbicides respond positively when applied with higher volumes of water because the greater quantity of spray solution provides better coverage. They are also less harmful to the crop.

Alberta Agriculture's weed control specialists recommend 10 gal'ons of solution per acre unless stated otherwise on the herbicide label. When a range is given, the higher rate of water provides the best control, they say.

- (cont'd) -

Improved Herbicide Performance (cont'd)

The magnitude of the effect from the use of a higher volume of water varies from chemical to chemical and can range all the way from a slight to a substantial benefit. There are, however, several chemicals that are totally unsatisfactory unless applied with the recommended volume of water.

If the higher volume of water is applied by using larger nozzles rather than by slowing the travelling speed of the sprayer, it is most important to make sure that the sprayer is capable of delivering the increased volume without a drop in pressure. The weed specialists suggest installing a pressure gauge in the spray boom. If the sprayer is unable to service the larger nozzles at 40 psi and still have the capacity to provide good agitation, they recommend extensive modifications to the sprayer. Very poor spraying results could occur if attention is not paid to this point.

Spraying Pressure

The commonly used flat fan nozzle produces its rated output and best pattern at 40 psi. However, the new flat fan L.P. (low pressure) nozzle is rated at 15 psi. As a general rule, if the pressure is lower than that recommended, the spray pattern will be narrower, the droplets will be larger and the results will be unsatisfactory. While it is possible to use a reduced pressure with some herbicides, some adjustments to the sprayer will be necessary.

A higher boom height and a slower speed will restore the spray pattern and maintain the application rate per acre. The only way to compensate for the fewer number of droplets is by further increasing the water rate.

Further information on sprayers and spraying techniques can be obtained from your agricultural fieldman or district agriculturist.

July 17, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION FOR HORSES

Although artificial insemination (AI) cannot yet be recommended for horses, it is not uncommon in cases where it is used for 150 or more mares to be bred to one stallion during one breeding season.

The reasons that AI is not yet being recommended for horses is that conception rates are low and foals cannot be registered until all breed associations allow the use of AI.

When AI is used for horses,the semen is collected from the stallion with an artificial vagina. The ejaculate is divided into fractions, each containing 500 million motile sperm cells, which are deposited into the uterus of a mare that is in heat.

An average ejaculate from a mature stallion can be used to inseminate 15 to 20 mares, but the semen must be maintained at body temperature and used within an hour of its collection. This means that the mares must be kept on the same premises as the stallion.

Those who have used AI for horses say that it requires superior management, accurate daily heat checks and strict adherence to hygiene practices.

Further information on this subject can be obtained from the Horse Industry Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 205 - 20003 McKnight Boulevard, N.E. Calgary, T2E 5S7.

- 30 -

July 17, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBSURFACE TILE DRAINAGE INSTALLATION

Anyone interested in subsurface tile drainage is invited to see a research project that is being sponsored by Alberta Agriculture's engineering and field services branch in the Peace River region during the latter half of July.

Engineers with C. W. Land Reclamation of Olds will be plowing in approximately 28,000 feet of plastic tile line to drain potholes and muskeg.

Two sites have been chosen for the project. One is the farm of Fred Gould in the Hawkhills area and the other is the farm of Benny Kury in the Spirit River area. Mr. Gould's farm is located 7 miles north and 2 miles east of Hotchkiss, and Mr. Kury's farm is located 4 miles north, 3 miles west and 1½ miles north of Rycroft.

Further information on the subsurface tile drainage research project and the dates the work will be in progress at each of the two sites can be obtained Duane Wood, Alberta Agriculture's regional engineer at Fairview (Telephone 835-2291).

- 30 -

July 17, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OLDS COLLEGE ALUMNI DIAMOND JUBILEE

All former students, staff and their families and friends and other friends of the Olds College are invited to attend the alumni association's diamond jubilee celebration on July 29 and 30.

Graduating classes that will be specially honored at the 1978 summer reunion are those of 1918 (60 years), 1928 (50 years), 1938 (40 years), 1948 (30 years), 1953 (25 years), 1958 (20 years) and 1968 (10 years).

Jubilee highlights will include the unveiling of a history of the alumni association; the establishment of a Good Samaritan Award in honor of the late Frank Stevens; the introduction of an alumni crest and the dedication of a plaque in memory of former students who were killed in World War II.

A ceremony to introduce L. D. (Larry) Williams of Camrose (class of 1937) and Dr. Cyril K. Johns of Stittsville, Ontario, (class of 1922) to the Olds College Alumni Hall of Fame will be another highlight of the jubilee celebration. It will take place at the banquet on July 29.

The July 29 program will start with registration at 10:00 a.m. and will include visiting, lunch, a special luncheon for the 50 and 60-year people and their spouses, a campus tour, a reception and a banquet and dance.

The July 30 program will include a family breakfast, a non-denominational church service, recognition of the classes being specially honored, the annual meeting of the alumni association and a barbecue.

- 30 -

July 17, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTERPROVINCIAL 4-H EXCHANGE

Each of nine delegates, chosen to represent Alberta at the 1978 provincial 4-H selections, are spending two weeks with a 4-H host family in another province.

Sponsored by the Royal Bank of Canada and co-ordinated by the National Council of 4-H Clubs and provincial 4-H offices, the exchange program is designed to give the delegates an opportunity to experience and become familiar with the customs and lifestyles of the province in which they are representing Alberta. It also gives them a chance to exchange ideas and to develop a better understanding and appreciation of other Canadian citizens.

Following is a list of the Alberta delegates and the provinces in which they are representing Alberta.

Rena Oldenburg of Vermilion is in Newfoundland; Gloria Beniuk of Lac La Biche is in Nova Scotia; Arlene Hilton of Strathmore is in Prince Edward Island; John Mayko of Andrew is in New Brunswick; Ellen Sherwood of Winfield is in Quebec; Janice Steinback of Edmonton is in Ontario; Dianne Koskewick of Del Bonita is in Manitoba; Brenda Saari of Eckville is in Saskatchewan and Lorna Christie of Trochu is in British Columbia.

- 30 -

July 17, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CARE FOR HOUSE PLANTS AT VACATION TIME

If you do not have a babysitter for your plants when you go on your holidays this summer, here are some suggestions for solving your problem.

One is to put your plants in an about two inches of water in your bath or kitchen sink. If there is no light in the room, it is a good idea to leave a light on while you are away. Your plants should be all right for about two weeks.

Another method is to use a clear plastic bag. First water your plant thoroughly and then insert two stakes that are slightly higher than the plant. Next put a plastic bag over the top of the plant and the stakes and fasten it securely to the rim of the pot with a rubber band or string. This method works best with plastic pots because they are not porous. When the soil moisture evaporates it will condense on the plastic and drain back into the pot.

After the plants have been placed in the bags they should be put in a cool place away from direct sunlight. The plastic bag creates an ideal environment for many house plants for about two weeks, but it should not be used for soft plants like fibrous rooted begonias because the excess moisture may cause them to rot.

Many garden centers and other plant outlets sell automatic watering devices which are very useful for people planning a long vacation.

If you are lucy enough to have a neighbor who will babysit your plants, be sure to give instruction on how much water to give them, especially if the person is inexperienced with plants. It does not take long to kill a plant by overwatering it.

- 30 -

AGRI-NEWS

LIBRARY
JUL 21 1978
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
EDMONTON, ALBERTA

July 24, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Fertilizer Plants Receive Nutritive Processing Grants........................1

Anthrax..2

Getting the Most from A Round Baler 4

Bear Precautions 6

Shelterbelt Tree Applications Available..............................8

1978 Alberta Achievement Awards..................................10

Award to be Announced at 4-H Conservation Camp 11

Home Maintenance and Repair Course 12

Three Hills Field Plot Tour 13

Suntan Preparations ....P.14-15................14

Head of Beef Cattle and Sheep Branch Appointed 16

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

Phone (403) 427-2127

July 24, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FERTILIZER PLANTS RECEIVE NUTRITIVE PROCESSING GRANTS

Two fertilizer plants north of Edmonton have received grants under the federal-provincial Nutritive Processing Agreement.

Poloway Fertilizer Sales Ltd. of Pickardville will receive $9,167 to build a bulk storage warehouse and to install custom blending equipment. The total cost of the expansion project is estimated at $84,346. One full-time and two seasonal full-time jobs are expected to be created by the new blending equipment.

Falls Farm Equipment of Alcomdale will receive $3,023 to install a fertilizer blender and scale hopper system for a total estimated cost of $23,250. It is anticipated that three additional people will be hired on a seasonal basis when the plant is in full operation.

The grants were announced by the federal minister of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, Marcel Lessard, and Alberta's minister of agriculture, Marvin Moore. The grants are shared equally by DREE and Alberta Agriculture and are designed to help firms which establish, modernize or expand their nutritive processing facilities in rural Alberta.

30 -

July 24, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANTHRAX

The recent outbreak of anthrax in Wood Buffalo National Park has prompted inquiries regarding the possibility of the outbreak spreading to other areas of Alberta.

According to Dr. Frank Baker, extension veterinarian with Alberta Agriculture, anthrax is very unlikely to spread to other areas. However, because of its severity and its possible transmission to human beings, all livestock owners should be aware of it and the possibility of it appearing anywhere in the province.

Anthrax is a disease characterized by septicemia and sudden death. It occurs throughout the world and is generally restricted to so-called "anthrax belts" of which Wood Buffalo Park appears to be one. While it has been reported in other areas of Alberta at various times, this is the only area where it appears with any degree of regularity.

Anthrax is invariably fatal to farm animals, but cattle are more susceptible to it than horses, swine or sheep. It is caused by a bacterium, Bacillus anthracis, which, when exposed to the air, forms spores that are capable of resisting the adverse effects of extreme environmental conditions and standard disinfectants.

The spores survive in soils, particularly those having poor drainage and a high organic matter content, for many many years. Spores are formed only when the bacteria are exposed to air, and it is for this reason that a suspected anthrax carcass should not be opened. Putrefaction of the carcass will destroy the bacteria.

Animals usually become infected by ingesting contaminated food or water, but infection through the skin and by inhalation are possible and are the most likely routes of human infection. The introduction of the disease into a new area is usually through contaminated animal products such as bone meal, hides, fertilizers or wool.

There are two forms of the disease: peracute and acute. In the peracute form, death occurs within one or two hours, while in the acute form it usually occurs within 48 hours.

- (cont'd) -

Anthrax (cont'd)

The affected animal is severely depressed, but occasionally may first show a short period of excitement. After death there are usually discharges of dark, tarry blood that does not clot from the mouth, nostrils, vulva and anus.

Since anthrax is a reportable disease even the slightest suspicion of its presence should be reported immediately to a veterinarian.

July 24, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GETTING THE MOST FROM A ROUND BALER

To make the best use of a round baler, hay windrows should be as heavy as possible, according to the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute (PAMI) which has been testing this type of baler. Heavy windrows help reduce losses at the pickup and minimize the time required to form a bale, thereby reducing machine losses.

The PAMI engineers say that you should use a wide windrower when cutting a light hay crop or rake to smaller windrows together. However, raking should only be done when the hay's moisture content is above 40 per cent.

The engineers also recommend using a conditioner with the windrower when possible. Conditioned hay dries just as quickly in the windrow as unraked hay. The conditioner decreases windrow drying time by crimping the coarse stems and leaves a fluffy windrow that allows better air circulation.

Do not turn windrows that have been rained on unless they can be baled before the next rain. Each turning shatters more leaves and contributes to nutrient losses. Extra turning should only be done to prevent spoilage.

The recommended time to bale hay with a round baler is when the hay reaches about 18 per cent moisture, but do not bale on a very hot dry day. Maintain a ground speed of five or six miles per hour and use good quality twine. For ease of handling and good weatherability apply eight or nine wraps per bale.

Studies carried out the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute show that total round baler losses can be as low as 5 per cent when proper crop preparation techniques are followed and the baler is used correctly. When poor haying techniques are used, losses can be in excess of 25 per cent.

Specialized equipment adapted for moving round bales is recommended by the PAMI engineers. If, however, a frontend loader is used, be sure that the tractor and the loader are

- (cont'd) -

Getting the Most from a Round Baler (cont'd)

rated for handling the load. There are special attachments available for frontend loaders. These are convenient to use and are recommended for preventing the bales from rolling back on to the tractor cab and operator.

To reduce moisture penetration during storage, round bales should be stored so that they do not come in contact with each other. They should never be piled up unless they are covered.

There are three basic types of large round balers which are described and illustrated in an article entitled "Getting the Most From Your Round Baler". For information on obtaining this and other publications in Alberta contact the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute, c/o LCC Campus, Lethbridge, Alberta T1K 1L6 (Telephone 329-1212).

- 30 -

July 24, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEAR PRECAUTIONS

If you are in bear country assume that sooner or later you will encounter a bear and take the following precautions, recommended by Grant Churchill, occupational health and safety co-ordinator with Alberta Agriculture. Although his recommendations are not foolproof, they are the best that are available.

- Hike with a companion, remain on the trails and respect restrictions posted in provincial and national parks.
- Carry a bell, whistle or substitute to create a noise to let the bear know that you are coming. Be especially cautious when vision is obstructed or the bear is not likely to hear you because of the noise from running water.
- Take note of such bear signs as tracks, droppings, and food sources (a carcass, a berry patch or digging) which indicate that bears may be in the vicinity.
- Give a black bear a wide berth and keep upwind to let him know you are in the area.
- Leave the area immediately if you see a grizzly bear.
- Never approach a bear to photograph or feed it.
- Do not pitch your tent near dense trees or bush or on a ridge, lakeshore, or bank of a stream or near an animal trail.
- Display bright flapping objects in your camping area.
- Do not cook near your tent and wash and store your untensils immediately after you have eaten.
- Hide your food and clothes worn while cooking in airtight bags in a tree about 40 mm from the camp when you have finished eating.
- Eat dried food as opposed to fresh and canned foods to avoid any odor.
- Camp in a tent and walk around the camp area before you retire to leave a human scent.

- (cont'd) -

Bear Precautions (cont'd)

- Bury your garbage well away from the camp area after each meal.
- Never hike after dark.
- Use a flashlight at night.
- Do not use cosmetics or perfumed soap.
- Do not take pets into bear country. If for some reason you have to take your dog, keep him on a leash all the time.
- Report the invasion of your camp by a bear and any damage or injury to your nearest Alberta Fish and Wildlife official.

Mr. Churchill reports that many encounters with bears consist of bluff attacks on the part of the bear and that the most up-to-date scientific opinion regarding human behaviour during a bluff or an actual attack should consist of the following.

Remain calm and do not run. Back away while at the same time dropping your backpack or another article for the bear to investigate, thereby delaying his advance.

It may be a good idea to climb a tree if there is one around that is large enough for you to get out of the reach of a grizzly bear. An adult grizzly will rarely climb a tree. However, some black bears are very agile climbers.

If no escape is possible play "dead" by lying face down with your knees drawn up to your chest and your hands clasped over the back of your neck. This position is recommended to help protect the most vital body parts of your body. A bear will usually inflict minimal injuries when this position is adopted.

"Remember", says Mr. Churchill, "you are the intruder when you are in the woods and that a bear will react in the only way he knows. If you respect him and his customs, you are much less likely to become involved in a mishap."

Julu 24, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHELTERBELT TREE APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Alberta Agriculture is now accepting tree applications for the 1979 tree shelterbelt planting program. The application deadline is November 1, 1978.

Trees can be obtained under this program for farmstead and field shelterbelts. However, the proposed planting side must be summerfallowed this summer and must pass inspection next fall. If it does not pass, the application will be rejected.

Most counties in Alberta have passed by-laws which regulate tree plantings along roadsides. In Stettler, for example, a roadside shelterbelt must be planted 100 feet back from the centre of a rural or district road. If it is to be situated beside a secondary road, it must be 134 feet back from the centre of the road. In the case of a primary road, it must be 234 feet back from the centre of the road. These regulations are designed to protect the public from having to pay for moving a shelterbelt if a road is widened and to prevent the road from drifting in during the winter, which often happens when the trees are too close. All counties in the province have similar regulations. Information on them can be obtained from your county or M. D. office.

When planning a farmstead shelterbelt be sure to enclose an area that is large enough to accommodate all the buildings and working areas and that will allow for expansion (five to 10 acres). Plan for a shelterbelt of no less than three rows of trees approximately 20 feet apart, and always include a row of evergreens and a hedge (outside row).

When choosing shelterbelt trees and shrubs, you should take into account such factors as the mature size of the species, its winterhardiness, its rate of growth, its flowering habits, it tolerance to salt and acid solids, its moisture requirements, it susceptibility to damage from insects and disease and its maintenance requirements.

Different trees and shrubs will behave differently on the same site. If the site is not well drained, you should consider such species as willow, poplar and white spruce. If the

- (cont'd) -

Shelterbelt Tree Applications Available (cont'd)

site is very dry, caragana, green ash and scotch pine are recommended. Caragana, villosa lilac and green ash are recommended for saline soil.

You can get a complete list of the trees and shrubs that will be available for next year's planting from your district agriculturist. He also has an illustrated catalogue of shelterbelt trees and shrubs, which you can look at to get an idea of what the species you are considering will look like when they are mature, and two very useful publications. One entitled "Farmstead Beautification", deals with the layout and general design of the farmstead. The other entitled "Shelterbelts in Alberta", gives detailed information on choosing, planting and maintaining farmstead and field shelterbelts in Alberta.

- 30 -

10

July 24, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1978 ALBERTA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Do you know an Albertan who deserves recognition for having made an outstanding contribution in the field of art, sports, science, the humanities or any other area? Have you thought of nominating him or her for a 1978 Alberta achievement award?

The Alberta Achievement Awards Program, a form of which was initiated about 10 years ago, is designed to recognize Albertans who have made an exceptional contribution to the quality of life in this province by their dedication, accomplishments or other activities.

There are three nomination categories.

Performance Awards

This category is for amateurs who excelled in a sports or non-sports event between September 1, 1977 and August 31, 1978. The nominee must have placed first in a recognized Canadian open championship or first, second or third in a recognized international open competition.

Service Awards

This category is open to individuals or groups who have given exceptional voluntary service that has had a wide regional or provincial impact, and which has extended over a period of 10 years or more.

Excellence Awards

This category is for individuals or groups who have made extraordinary contributions and/or achieved outstanding recognition on a national or international level in a professional or occupational capacity.

Full details on the Achievement Awards Program and nomination forms can be obtained from Alberta Culture, Achievement Awards Program, 14th Floor, CN Tower, Edmonton, T5J 0K5 (Telephone 427-2926).

The deadline for receipt of nomination forms by Alberta Culture is September 1, 1978.

July 24, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AWARD TO BE ANNOUNCED AT 4-H CONSERVATION CAMP

Announcement of this year's recipient of the Grant MacEwan Conservation Award will be one of the highlights of Alberta's 13th annual 4-H Conservation Camp, scheduled to take place at the James River Bible Campsite near Sundre from August 6 to 12.

This award, which is sponsored by Alberta Power Ltd. and Calgary Power Ltd., will be announced on August 11. It is given in recognition of an outstanding effort on the part of a 1977 graduate camper to spread the conservation message, which is concern for environmental management. The award, plus an engraved plaque and $200 in Canada Savings Bonds, will be presented at the annual Weekly Newspaper Editors' Convention in mid-September.

The theme of the 1978 camp is "Five in One". Participants will be able to take part in two of five study areas which include water conservation, soil conservation, range management, fish and wildlife management and forestry conservation. There will be a professional resource person in charge of each of the study areas.

Up to 65 senior 4-H members from all parts of Alberta are expected to attend the camp. They will explore issues related to the environment and the conservation of natural resources. When they return home, they will be expected to share what they learned with other 4-H groups and community groups.

The 4-H Conservation Camp is sponsored each year by Alberta Power Ltd., Calgary Power Ltd. and Alberta Agriculture.

Jyly 24, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOME MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR COURSE

Would you like to know how to do simple home repairs? Alberta Agriculture is offering a course entitled "Home Maintenance and Repairs" that is designed for people who would like to be able to do their own maintenance work as well as minor plumbing and electrical repairs.

The course takes the form of one or two-day workshops which are held in a specially equipped trailer and local community halls. The trailer contains a furance, a hot water tank, a humidifier and a toilet.

In addition to covering maintenance and repairs for the above items, the workshops deal with simple electrical repairs, wall fasteners for hanging heavy objects on hollow walls, weather stripping and insulation, cushion floor repairs, wall plaster repairs, wall painting and individual energy conservation techniques.

The cost is only $5 for the one-day workshop and $10 for the two-day workshop. They are conducted by Leona Polinchuk who is assistant home design specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

If you have a minimum of 10 people in your area who would be interested in this type of workshop, you can book the trailer for this spring or summer through your district home economist. Twenty is the maximum number of people that can be accommodated at one workshop.

- 30 -

July 24, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE HILLS FIELD PLOT TOUR

The observation of some very interesting zero tillage results will be one of the highlights of a field plot tour, organized by Alberta Agriculture and the agricultural service board of the M. D. of Kneehill for the afternoon of August 3.

The tour will also include a number of cereal and oilseed variety plots and herbicide trials that are in their second year. The herbicide plots show the effects on crops of different rates of some commonly used herbicides in varying amounts of water. Last year 2, 4-D was used on wheat at a rate of 32 ounces per acre in five gallons of water with no visible damage then or to date this year.

If time permits participants will also see a chemical summerfallow.

The tour will start from the Three Hills Provincial Building at noon on August 3.

- 30 -

July 24, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEAD OF BEEF CATTLE AND SHEEP BRANCH APPOINTED

The director of Alberta Agriculture's animal industry division, J. S. Lore, has announced the appointment of Dr. H. B. Jeffery to the position of head of the beef cattle and sheep branch.

In his new position Dr. Jeffery will be responsible for the activities of the branch. They include record of performance, artificial insemination, nutrition and special programs, including warble control. He will also be responsible for policies and programs that affect the beef cattle and sheep industries and for overseeing the regional livestock supervisors.

Dr. Jeffery was raised on a farm in Manitoba and graduated from the University of Manitoba with a B.S.A. (agriculture) in 1950 and a M.Sc. (major in animal reproduction physiology) in 1953. He studied Economics at Montana State College in 1963 and completed his Ph.D. in animal genetics at the University of Alberta in 1971.

Dr. Jeffery joined Alberta Agriculture in 1955 as assistant district agriculturist. In 1963 he joined the animal industry division as supervisor of artificial insemination and remained for eight years when he was appointed general manager of the Alberta Hog Producers Marketing Board. He returned to Alberta Agriculture in 1972 as a member of the Planning and Research Secretariat.

- 30 -

AL.1.691

AGRI-NEWS

July 31, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Three Plants Receive Grants Under Federal-Provincial Agreement 1

Hog Price and Supply Outlook 3

First Goat Auction Well Attended. 4

Selecting Crops for Acid Soils 5

Winter Wheat Survival 7

Used Farm Machinery Warranties 8

Blue Algae Poisoning. 9

Correct Herbicide Application is the Key to Good Results 11

Pear Slug Control 12

4-H Regional Camps 13

Play Ideas for a Rainy Day 14

Food Marketing Officer Appointed to Calgary 15

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

Phone (403) 427-2127

July 31, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE PLANTS RECEIVE GRANTS UNDER FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL AGREEMENT

Three more Alberta plants have received grants under the federal-provincial Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement. They are Hinse Poultry Farms Ltd. of Beaumont, Champion Feed Services Ltd. of Barrhead and Canada Packers Ltd. in Red Deer.

Hinse Poultry Farms Ltd.

Hinse Poultry Farms Ltd. has received a $9,000 grant to expand its facilities for custom killing fowls and rabbits. The expansion will enable the plant to kill and dress 600 birds per hour.

The estimated total capital cost of the expansion is $50,000. Five additional part-time jobs will be created.

Champion Feed Services Ltd.

Champion Feed Services Ltd. has received $50,382 grant to add two roller mills, increase its hammer mill capacity and storage facilities and to install dust control equipment.

The capital cost of the additions and modifications to increase the plant's efficiency is estimated to be $347,463. It is anticipated that eight new jobs will have been created by the renovated plant's third year of operation.

The plant presently processes between 15,000 and 18,000 tons of complete feed a year in a mash or pelleted form for cattle, hogs and poultry. It also does a small amount of custom grinding and rolling.

Canada Packers

Canada Packers has received a grant of $7,702 to install a new eviscerating table which will enable the plant to process and market more edible meat byproducts. The total estimated capital cost of the table is $77,020.

- (cont'd) -

Three Plants Receive Grants Under Federal-Provincial Agreement (cont'd)

The above grants were announced by Marcel Lessard, federal minister of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE) and Marvin Moore, Alberta's minister of agriculture.

The Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement was established several years ago to help Alberta firms to modernize, expand or establish food processing facilities in rural areas of the province.

- 30 -

CORRECTION

"Bear Precautions" (July 24 issue of "Agri-News") — The tenth point under the precautions should read "Hide your food and clothes worn while cooking in airtight bags in a tree about 400 m (not 40 mm) from the camp when you have finished eating."

July 31, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOG PRICE AND SUPPLY OUTLOOK

Although the current performance of Canadian hog prices is being affected by labor problems at two of Canada's largest packing and processing companies, price levels should improve during the third quarter of the year.

This is the opinion of Maurice Kraut, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, who points out that this improvement will reflect the lower expected hog supply in the United States.

Current United States Department of Agriculture forecasts predict hog prices will average in the $50 to $55 per hundredweight (live basis) range in the third quarter. With Canadian prices approaching an export basis, this price range indicates a potential for Canadian hog prices to average in the high $60 per hundredweight range (dressed) in the third quarter.

Alberta hog prices will follow the Canadian trend at least as long as the price range is export-oriented. Mr. Kraut says third and fourth quarter prices here will probably average between $65 to $67 per hundredweight.

Although the good returns both Canadian and U. S. hog producers are experiencing at the present time is resulting in some positive response in production, this response is minimal. "It appears unlikely," says Mr. Kraut, "that there will be a sufficient supply response from the North American hog industry to offset the expected decrease in 1979 beef production."

Interpretations based on the June 1st U. S. 50 State Hogs and Pigs on Farms Report indicate potential third quarter marketings in that country of 19.2 million head, up 3.5 per cent from 1977. Fourth quarter marketings based on the under 60-pound hogs as indicated by the survey could be down 4 per cent from last year's level.

Forecasts predict 1978 U. S. hog marketings will be approximately 78.5 million head, which is up just over one per cent from 1977. Since this marginal increase is not enough

- (cont'd) -

Hog Price and Supply Outlook (cont'd)

to offset the decline in cattle marketings, this year's U. S. red meat supplies will be down from 1977. Although indications point to poultry meats offsetting most of the deficit in red meat supplies, this year's total meat supply may still be down by one or 2 per cent from the 1977 level.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIRST GOAT AUCTION WELL ATTENDED

What is believed to be Western Canada's first goat auction was attended by more than 150 breeds from all parts of Alberta and from British Columbia. It took place in Wetaskiwin.

There were 77 entries consisting of grade Saanens, Alpines, Nubiens and Toggenburgs and crossbreds. The animals varied in age from small kids to mature animals, and represented both dairy and meat-type goats.

The milking does average $129 a head while the doe kids, which accounted for more than two-thirds of the entries, average almost $81 per head. The bucks were sold for meat and also fetched good prices.

Another goat auction is scheduled to take place in Wetaskiwin in September. Details can be obtained from Les Steem, secretary of the Alberta Goat Breeders Association, R. R. 1, Leduc, Alberta, T9E 2X1 (Telephone 986-1876).

- 30 -

July 31, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SELECTING CROPS FOR ACID SOILS

Oats and flax are both very tolerant to soil acidity.

Dr. P. B. Hoyt of the federal research station at Beaverlodge told participants at the recent Breton plots field day that these two crops showed practically no yield loss from acidity in field experiments carried out on two extremely acid soils in the Peace River region. Rape and wheat yields, on the other hand, were decreased by an average of 30 per cent. The experiments also showed that Garnet wheat was more tolerant to soil acidity than were Saunders or Thatcher. Barley was the most sensitive cereal crop to soil acidity. It had a yield loss of 55 per cent.

There are, however, some barley varieties which appear to have fairly good tolerance to soil acidity. Of these Olli has shown the greatest tolerance so far. It is much more tolerant than Galt. Dr. Hoyt says cereal plant breeders at Beaverlodge are currently testing a large number of barley varieties and strains for their tolerance to soil acidity.

Several species of grasses and legumes have been grown on three strongly to extremely acid soils to determine their tolerance to soil acidity. In general the grasses were more tolerant to acidity than were the legumes. The highest yield of forage without liming was obtained from timothy and bromegrass. The highest yield of seed was obtained from red fescue. Red clover produced more forage than alsike clover, and it produced the highest yield of seed of any legume.

According to Dr. Hoyt, alfalfa is very susceptible to soil acidity, and its yield is decreased on even moderately acid soils. He says the yields of alfalfa on soil with a pH of 5.5 are usually only one half to two-thirds of those from alfalfa grown on soil with a pH of 6.0. Yield decreases in alfalfa grown on soils with a pH of 5.5 to 6.0 are mainly due to poor nitrogen fixation by the Rhizobium bacteria. However, improved strains of Rhizobium meliloti,

- (cont'd) -

Selecting Crops for Acid Soils (cont'd)

developed at the Beaverlodge research station, have shown more tolerance to soil acidity than the usual strains. These improved strains are presently being compared in field experiments.

Garden vegetables also display a wide range in tolerance to soil acidity. Peas, for example, grow best in a soil with a pH that is higher than 6.0, while potatoes grow well in soils with a pH as low as 5.0.

Even weeds vary in their tolerance to soil acidity. Fireweed and field horsetail both grow on extremely acid soils, and wild oats are very tolerant of acid soils.

- 30 -

July 31, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WINTER WHEAT SURVIVAL

Can winter wheat be successfully grown in central and northern Alberta and are there any new varieties on the market?

Bob Nelson, cereal crops specialist with Alberta Agriculture, says that winter wheat, which, under proper management, will outyield spring wheat by 10 to 18 per cent, will not consistently overwinter in these areas.

Although the best varieties can stand a week of -15° C at the crown, and the temperature at the crown rarely falls below -10° C in central and northern Alberta, winter wheat survives in these areas only six out of every 10 years. The reason, according to Mr. Nelson, is snow mold pathogens to which present winter wheat varieties have little resistance.

He reports that chemicals for controlling these pathogens are now being tested, and that new cultivar lines are being screened for disease-resistant characteristics.

The newest winter wheat variety, Norstar, developed by the federal research station at Lethbridge and released last year, has cold hardiness superior to that of Sundance and equal to that of Kharkov 22MC. Its yield is equal to or better than that of Sundance, and it has milling and baking qualities that are equal to Winalta.

Mr. Nelson says if the present crop is harvested satisfactorily, there will be a fairly good supply of registered and foundation seed available from seed growers and the seed trade in southern Alberta.

- 30 -

July 31, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USED FARM MACHINERY WARRANTIES

Negotiate a warranty on used farm machinery before you purchase.

This advice comes from R. G. McFadyen, administrator of the Farm Implement Act Administration, who points out that this act does not provide for a warranty on the sale of used farm equipment. "Any warranty given on the sale of used farm implements," he says, "is given by the dealer from whom the purchase is made, and should be written into the purchase contract." Verbal agreements are not a good idea because they can be misunderstood, and because they are difficult to enforce.

Mr. McFadyen also says if no warranty is given with a piece of used farm equipment, the purchase contract should clearly state "no warranty" so that there can be no misunderstanding later. It is very important that farmers fully understand just what the warranty covers before they concluded a sale, and that they keep a copy of the purchase contract, signed by both parties, for future reference.

Mr. McFadyen points out that there is generally no warranty, either given or implied, on farm equipment that is purchased at an auction sale. For this reason the price paid for the unit should be low enough to ensure that its value and the cost of repairing it, if this becomes necessary, does not exceed the true value of the implement. It is also important to remember that farmer to farmer transactions of used machinery do not come under the provisions and regulations of the Alberta Farm Implement Act.

Wise purchases of used farm equipment can help to keep production costs down, while unwise purchases can lead to great expense since the cost of repairs and labor for a used piece of machinery is just as high as for a new machine. Even though most major repairs now cost more than $500 for labor alone, a fairly large number of farmers still sign purchase contracts which do not include a warranty.

- 30 -

July 31, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLUE ALGAE POISONING

Although blue algae is not a common problem, it can be a very costly one when it does occur.

According to Dr. Frank Baker, extension veterinarian with Alberta Agriculture, hot summer weather creates an ideal environment for the development of blue-green algae "When the wind direction and other conditions are such that the algae becomes concentrated in livestock drinking areas, the water can be deadly poisonous", he says. "It is the decomposing algae that is responsible for the fast-killing toxin present in the water."

Without this decomposition, even large concentrations of algae in sloughs, lakes or dugouts are not an immediate danger to livestock, but there is always the potential hazard of decomposition occurring.

Dr. Baker says many people become unduely alarmed by the presence of algae and similar growth in sources of livestock drinking water. He points out that there is no danger of algae poisoning as long as there is no indication of decomposition having taken place, and the water is relatively clear. When decomposition has taken place to a significant extent, the water will be quite turbid, and it will have a green or blue-green sheen which indicates it is very poisonous to livestock.

"Bacteria which cause such things as gastroenteritis are commonly associated with large concentrations of algae, but the main danger to livestock is the toxin produced by decomposed algae, " Dr. Baker says.

Signs of sickness from algae poisoning usually develop within half an hour after the water has been drunk. Affected animals stagger and develop muscle tremors and an exaggerated response to stimulation from such things as noise or touch and they may even develop convulsions. Death often occurs within a few hours or even a few minutes.

- (cont'd) -

Blue Algae Poisoning (cont'd)

The administration of intravenous solutions by a veterinarian to counteract the toxin may save some animals if administered promptly, but dead animals are usually the first sign of trouble.

The best protection against blue algae poisoning in a dugout is to prevent the build-up of a large concentration through the use of copper sulphate (bluestone) or an other algaecide like Deldrad. The recommended application rate for copper sulphate is one pound per 100.000 gallons of water. It may be put in a sack and dragged back and forth across the water until it has completely dissolved.

Dr. Baker thinks it is a good idea to have livestock insurance to cover the possibility of algae poisoning. It is available from any insurance agent.

- 30 -

July 31, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CORRECT HERBICIDE APPLICATION IS THE KEY TO GOOD RESULTS

Once again complaints are being voiced about some of the contact-type herbicides not providing the consistently good kill they are reputed to be capable of.

Arnold Stearman of Alberta Agriculture's weed control branch says that in almost every case investigated, the herbicide had been applied with equipment that did not normally emit the high volume of water required.

If the label directions specify 20 gallons of water or more per acre, these directions must be followed for good results. Remember, good weed coverage is of prime importance when using contact-type herbicides.

Following is a list of commonly used contact herbicides that, according to the manufacturer's label directions, must be used in high volumes of water per acre.

Herbicide Chemical	Gal/acre
Compitox, Mecoprop	20 - 25
Roundup (glyphosate), Gramoxone (paraquat)	10 - 20
Tropotox (MCPB), Embutox E (2, 4-DB)	15
Buctril, Bromoxynil, Torch, Sencor, Lexone, Asulox F, Lorox, Dalapon, Stampede, Avadex BW, Avenge, HOE-Grass TCA, TOK R/M, Treflan, Cobex, Eptam	10 or more

- 30 -

July 31, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PEAR SLUG CONTROL

Yellow spots on the leaves of cotoneaster, hawthorn, mountain ash, pin cherry or fruit trees are the first sign of pear slug damage. As feeding by the larvae progresses, these spots increase in size, merge together and turn brown, giving the tree or shrub a scorched appearance Sometimes the leaves drop prematurely.

The larvae are dark olive green and have a slug-like appearance. As they get older, they turn a bright yellow, stop feeding and drop to the ground where they overwinter.

Since pear slug damage occurs in the late summer when the growing season is nearly completed, healthy trees and shrubs are usually able to withstand several years of moderate attack. However, when the pear slug population is high, the damaged foliage can be very unsightly.

You can control the damage by rinsing the larvae off the leaves with a strong stream of water from a garden hose or, in the case of a small tree or a shrub, you can apply a soapy solution with a watering can. Add two tablespoonsful of soap flakes (not powdered laundry detergent) to a quart of water to make the solution.

If you have a bad pear slug infestation, you may want to use a contact insecticide. Rotenone and pyrethrum are both natural, non-polluting, fast-acting products that are short-lived. Rotenone should be applied as a one per cent dust. Pyrethrum is generally applied as an aerosal spray. You can also use malathion 50 EC or carbaryl (Sevin WP) sprays. The recommended rate is two teaspoonsful of either product per gallon of water.

Hugh Philip, head of Alberta Agriculture's entomology section, says a close relative of the pear slug attacks rose bushes. Called the rose slug, it is similar in appearance to the pear slug except that it is a lighter color. It causes the same type of damage and can be controlled by the same techniques and products as are recommended for controlling the pear slug.

- 30 -

July 31, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4-H REGIONAL CAMPS

Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch has a really exciting regional camping program this summer involving more than 700 members.

This year's theme, Environmental Awareness, is being incorporated into all activities. In the camping skills, for example, emphasis is being placed on preserving the natural setting. The campers are not only improving their camping skills but are also developing enthusiasm and understanding of 4-H in the informal fun-oriented camp settings.

Among the other activities offered by these regional summer camps are canoeing, swimming, crafts, nature study, archery and a number of other outdoor skills.

Almost 100 4-H'ers between the ages of 15 and 19 have already attended various weekend seminars to train to be councellors at the camps.

The camp staff, which is split into two teams of three, is being supported and assisted by the regional 4-H specialists and district home economists.

Members of team one are Gene Krupa (director), Tina Driessen and Brenda Priestnall. Members of team two are Daphne Hnatiuk (director), Lyle Rowe and Carole Miller.

- 30 -

July 31, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLAY IDEAS FOR A RAINY DAY

Rainy days during the school holidays can seem pretty long for small children and for busy parents. Here are some play ideas from Betty Birch, Alberta Agriculture's district home economist at Stettler.

Soap Bubbles — give your child a plastic drinking straw and a cup or can of soapy water. Put a tray under the cup because it will overflow. The addition of a tiny bit of cooking oil to the soap mixture will make the bubbles tough enough to float in the air. A good place to play bubbles is in the bathtub, in the basement or out-of-doors.

Macaroni Jewellery — put short pieces of macaroni on string like beads to make necklaces and bracelets. Cellophane tape on the end of the string makes the tip stiff enough to thread easily. The macaroni can be painted before it is strung to make the jewellery more attractive.

Soap Animals — if the child is old enough to handle a dull knife, he can try shaping animals, boats or anything else from a regular bar of soap.

Play Dough — mix 4 cups of flour, and one cup of salt together, and add 1½ cups of water. Then mix and knead the dough until it is velvety. It can be modelled, rolled, cut, etc., and placed on a well-greased cookie sheet and baked at 350° F until the articles turn brown at the edges. Water color or acrylic paints can be used to decorate them. The dough will keep in a plastic bag in the refrigerator for about six months. To give a nice smell to the dough and to discourage children from eating it, you can add a tablespoonful of baby powder to the mixture.

July 31, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOOD MARKETING OFFICER APPOINTED TO CALGARY

Frances Cullen, commissioner of Alberta Agriculture's food marketing branch, has announced the appointment of Dora Graham to the position of marketing officer in Calgary.

Ms. Graham's three years' experience in promotional work with the Egg and Fowl Marketing Board has prepared her well for her work with the food marketing branch where she will be responsible for developing and expanding domestic marketing opportunities for Alberta's food products. Communicating information about Alberta's food and agricultural industry and its products to consumers to maximize the market share to producers will be an important part of this work.

- 30 -

Au.L.691

AGRI-NEWS

NATIONAL LIBRARY BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE
CANADA

CANADIANA

23 1978

August 7, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Cattle Price and Supply Outlook 1

Horn Fly Research in Alberta 3

Feeding Gestating Sows 5

Controlling Aspen Parkland Vegetation 8

Agricultural Tour of Mid-West U.S.A. 10

Green Crops Drying Congress 13

Alberta Horticultural Research Center Field Day 14

1978 Custom Rates for Farm Machinery 16

All Pectins are not the Same 17

Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

August 7, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CATTLE PRICE AND SUPPLY OUTLOOK

Canadian cattle prices are expected to remain strong for the rest of this year.

Alberta Agriculture's market analyst, Maurice Kraut, reports that the average price outlook for the third quarter is as follows: A1 and A2 steers -- $61 to $65 per hundredweight and at times in the high $60's to low $70's per hundredweight range; heavyweight feeder steers (800 pounds and over) -- the mid-$60 per hundredweight range, with short supplies in the $70 per hundredweight range; lightweight feeder steers (400 to 600 pounds) -- $71 to $75 per hundredweight and at times in the low $80 per hundredweight range; D1 and D2 cows -- $42 to $45 per hundredweight and at times $50 per hundredweight.

U. S. prices (basis Omaha) for choice slaughter steers are forecast by the United States Department of Agriculture to average $55 to $57 per hundredweight during the third quarter of this year. However, Mr. Kraut believes that steer prices in Omaha should reach about $60 per hundredweight in the third quarter.

The price outlook for both Canadian and U. S. cattle in the fourth quarter is for steady prices holding at least as high as third quarter prices.

The fact that cow slaughter in Canada and the U. S. to the end of June accounted for 22 per cent of the total slaughter (22.7 per cent for the same period last year) indicates that herd liquidation is still going on. The level of heifer slaughter in both countries, which has accounted for over 28 per cent of the cattle slaughter (28 per cent last year), further verifies continued herd liquidations. "It leaves the percentage of steers slaughtered relative to the total slaughter at the lowest level it has been since 1970," Mr. Kraut says. ' From January to the end of June this year, Canadian steer slaughter was down by 8 per cent, while cow slaughter was down only 2 per cent and heifer slaughter was down 5 per cent.

- (cont'd) -

Cattle Price and Supply Outlook (cont'd)

The result of this type of slaughter "mix" is that the basic cow herd level is being reduced and the rate of cow replacements is remaining low. Since this high rate of female slaughter is not expected to continue during the second half of this year, North American beef supplies during this period should consist mainly of steers. However, the level of female slaughter that has already taken place in 1978 will mean a smaller calf crop this year and a further reduction in 1979.

The U. S. July 1, 23 State Cattle on Feed Survey indicates an increase of 12 per cent to 10.9 million cattle in feedlots. According to Mr. Kraut, this is the largest number of cattle on feed since the 1972-73 expansionary period in the U. S. livestock industry. However, a large proportion of the cattle are lightweights which means they will take longer to reach slaughter weight. Since this increase in the number of cattle on feed has come about at the expense of non-grain fed slaughter, it is not anticipated that there will be an increase in cattle slaughter from current levels for the balance of 1978, even though these grain fed animals represent an increase in carcass weight. The United States Department of Agriculture economists are anticipating a 7 per cent reduction from the 1977 level in beef production in both the third and fourth quarters of this year.

Mr. Kraut says there appears to be little chance for significant changes in feed grain prices during the balance of this year and that the U. S. hog production level is not forecast to increase markedly over the 1977 level. In view of these two situations, and the fact that U. S. cattle slaughter is expected to remain 6 to 8 per cent below the 1977 level, higher cattle prices relative to 1977 are likely to prevail for the rest of 1978.

August 7, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HORN FLY RESEARCH IN ALBERTA

Alberta Agriculture entomologists are currently carrying out field research and demonstrations on controlling horn flies on cattle at the University of Alberta's farm in Edmonton and on eight ranches near Provost.

The university farm research is designed to evaluate the effectiveness of a bolus (a large pill administered orally) containing an insect growth regulator. The bolus remains in the animal's first stomach where it gradually breaks down, releasing the growth regulator into the rumen contents. It then passes out of the animal in the manure, which is where horn flies breed. When the larvae feed on the manure, they ingest the growth regulator which prevents them from developing into flies.

A different growth regulator used in experiments conducted in the western United States gave 100 per cent season-long horn fly control on range cattle, according to Hugh Philip, head of Alberta Agriculture's entomology section. He says insect growth regulators also have the potential of controlling houseflies around feedlots, barns and other livestock handling facilities.

The research being carried out on the eight ranches is designed to evaluate the new synthetic pyrethroide, permethrin. It is applied to the cattle by the forced use of a dust bag, with a cattle oiler or as a body spray. Results of this trial should be available in the fall.

The demonstrations being carried out on the ranches are to show cattlemen how to use currently available horn fly control procedures and products and to compare their effectiveness under range conditions. The methods being demonstrated include the forced and free use of dust bags and the free use of a cattle duster where the insecticide is dispensed through valves in a rubber tube when the animals rub against it.

- (cont'd) -

Horn Fly Research in Alberta (cont'd)

Mr. Philips hopes to expand horn fly research in the future so that other new control measures and products can be evaluated, thereby giving cattlemen a chance to choose the one that is best suited to their particular conditions.

- 30 -

August 7, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEEDING GESTATING SOWS

Feeding the correct ration and the right amount of feed to gestating sows is more important than many people realize.

Dr. P. McKinnon, Alberta Agriculture's swine specialist at Lethbridge, says that gestating sows in Alberta should get 2.3 kilograms (kg) of a 14 per cent protein ration based on barley supplemented with minerals and vitamins. Such a ration would provide a daily nutrient intake of 6,600 kilocalories (kcal) of digestible energy, 250 to 280 grams (g) of protein, 8.4 g of lysine, 15 g of calcium, 10 g of phosphorus plus trace minerals and vitamins.

From a practical point of view, a sow's dietry requirements could be met by supplementing barley with a commercial protein concentrate or soybean meal plus a commercial premix. Low glucosinolate rapeseed meal from the Tower or Candle varieties could be used to supply half of the supplemental protein without any detrimental effect. "Swine producers contemplating using other protein sources should be aware that many of them have limiting factors", says Dr. McKinnon.

Under confinement conditions sows may require less energy than that indicated above. In such cases, the amount of feed can be reduced, providing that the levels of protein, minerals and vitamins mentioned above remain the same. In practical terms, this could mean feeding only 1.6 to 1.9 kg of a 16 to 18 per cent protein ration and the recommended levels of minerals and vitamins.

Although the ration mentioned at the beginning of this article is adequate for a general recommendation, it is important to remember that sows kept outside will require more energy than those kept inside, and that they will require even more energy when the weather is very cold. Such things as feed wastage, which can be as high as 10 to 20 per cent, and the fact that sows do not share the feed equally when fed in groups are other things that must be taken into considerations.

- (cont'd) -

Feeding Gestating Sows (cont'd)

The use of individual feeding stalls is the most common method of ensuring the equal distribution of feed and of avoiding waste in both confinement and outside feeding situations. Even a concrete slab placed along a fenceline and behind a windbreak will help avoid feed wastage, but individual stalls with gates or chains at the back to retain the sows during feeding is a much better system. Individual stalls are commonly used when sows are confined for the entire gestation period. Dr. McKinnon reports that recent field experience in Alberta and abroad indicates that higher performance was obtained in large commercial herds with individual stalls compared with group pens. "Many people", he says, "argue that gestating sows need more exercise than they can get in an individual stall, but field experience does not support this view. The reason that productivity is greater from sows kept in individual stalls is probably because bullying by other sows is eliminated. Bullying is now thought to be one of the main causes of fertilized embryo losses and piglets being born dead".

Adding some high fibre such as hay and straw to the ration and allowing the sows free access to a self-feeder is one method that is used to enable thin sows in a group feeding situation to eat enough feed to meet their energy requirements, while, at the same time, ensuring that sows in good condition do not become too fat. A draw back to this method of feeding is that the high fibre content lowers the digestibility of the ration, thereby preventing the feed from being used to maximum efficiency. Hence, it can be an expensive way of feeding even though self-feeding will cut down on daily chore time. If alfalfa is used to provide the fibrous content of the ration, the calcium phosphorus ratio will have to be adjusted. In Alberta alfalfa contains 1.2 to 1.4 per cent calcium and 0.1 to 0.2 per cent phosphorus. Hence, less supplemental calcium is needed in a ration compared with phosphorus to give the recommended calcium phosphorus ratio of 1.25:1.

A feeding technique currently under investigation in the United States allows sows limited free access to a self-feeder. The sows are allowed to feed at a self-feeder which

-(cont'd) -

Feeding Gestating Sows (cont'd)

contains a regular cereal-based gestation diet for 24 hours twice a week or for eight or 12 hours three times a week. The rest of the time they receive no feed. Although no data on the results obtained from this type of feeding are available in Alberta yet, it appears that the performance of the animals is not impaired, providing that they eat as much food in a week as they would under other feeding methods.

Mr. McKinnon says that flushing, a technique involving the provision of extra feed at breeding time, which is used by sheepmen to increase their lambing percentage, does not appear to have much affect on sows that are in good condition when bred. He reports that recent work in this area has shown that thin sows do benefit from flushing, but that they benefit more from being given enough feed to prevent excessive weight loss during the lactation period. He emphasizes that sows which receive a high level of feed after they have been bred definitely have a higher incidence of embryo losses during the first part of gestation, and thus have smaller litters than sows fed the recommended 2.3 kg per day.

- 30 -

August 7, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTROLLING ASPEN PARKLAND VEGETATION

Fire, when properly controlled, is a useful range improvement method for Alberta's aspen parkland area.

This statement was made by Dr. A. W. Bailey of the University of Alberta's Department of Plant Science who has been studying the effect of fire on aspen parkland vegetation at the university's Kinsella ranch since 1967. He is an internationally recognized authority on this subject.

When the aspen parkland in central Alberta was settled about 1900, it consisted of grassland with scattered patches of willow and aspen. At that time the tree cover was kept in check by Prairie fires. However, as settlement advanced, overgrazing and plowing reduced the tree cover to the point where there were not enough to support these fires. Also, any fire that did breakout was quickly suppressed by the settlers. Consequently, there have not been any large fires in this area for the last 60 years.

In the absence of the Prairie fires the tree cover in the parkland area gradually increased between 1920 and 1950. From 1900 to 1910 it accounted for only about 5 per cent of the area, while today aspen trees cover about 10 per cent of the drier parts of the parkland area and from 70 to 100 per cent of the moister parts (e.g. around Edmonton).

Dr. Bailey says Prairie grassland produces between 1,500 and 2,000 pounds of forage per acre in the absence of trees. However, under tree cover its production is only about 100 pounds per acre. He also says that rough fescue and western porcupine grass are the two most common native grasses found in Alberta's aspen parkland.

The grassland soil, which has developed over centuries of time, used to be high in organic matter and very fertile. However, work done by federal researchers indicate a gradual long-term decline in its fertility now that the aspen poplar occupies so much of the parkland How long it will take for this decline to be noticed is not known, but there will be a gradual decline in the soil's organic matter and its nitrogen and organic phosphorus content.

- (cont'd) -

Controlling Aspen Parkland Vegetation (cont'd)

Prescribed burning is one of the means of economically controlling the expansion of aspen tree cover that is being studied. "Although considerable progress has been made in understanding the effect of fire on the parkland area, many problems still remain to be solved," Dr. Bailey says.

The native trees and shrubs are very adaptable to fire because of the many Prairie fires that occurred prior to settlement. During the first growing season after the fire, they grow new sprouts from their roots, but these can be controlled by reburning, spraying and grazing.

A prescribed burn tends to burn the grasses more readily than the tree cover and can set them back anywhere from two months to about three years. According to Dr. Bailey recovery depends upon conditions at the time of burning. He says the least damage is done if the grasses are burned while they are still in the dormant stage. This is just after the snow melts in the spring.

Dr. Bailey is continuing his studies on brush burning in an attempt to develop a system of prescribed burnings and follow-up-treatments that will be practical for farmers to use.

- 30 -

August 7, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURAL TOUR OF MID-WEST U.S.A.

The objective of the Alberta Wheat Pool's recent nine-day farmers' tour of the mid-western United States was to view the grain handling facilities in that part of the country.

The following summary of information gained from the tour was submitted by Allen Toly, Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Claresholm. The tour covered Minnesota, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri.

Farmers in those states have fewer but larger elevators than we have in Alberta. The average hauling distance is five to 10 miles, and the farthest hauling distance is 20 miles. A fairly typical country elevator in the mid-west would have storage for 800,000 bushels of grain and a 2.5 million bushel turnover. It would probably handle only two types of grain and work on a 6¢ to 8¢ per bushel handling charge.

Most of the elevators are of the concrete silo type, and the majority of the grain comes in by truck and leaves by unit trains that have about 30 hoppercars. A very small volume of the export grains are cleaned. Most of the grain in those states is straight combined, and it is felt that the low dockage would not justify cleaning.

A large proportion of American export grain is sent down the Missouri and Mississipi Rivers to the ports of New Orleans and Galveston in the Gulf of Mexico. A terminal in Minneapolis exports corn and soybeans down the Mississippi to New Orleans. This 1,200-mile one-way trip costs 13¢ a bushel by barge and 23¢ by rail. The barges hold 50,000 bushels of grain, and they always have a back haul of other products. The return trip takes 22 days.

The American railways have converted almost completely to hoppercars for moving grain. However, they are experiencing a severe shortage of these cars because of the high level of exports. Approximately 45 per cent of American grain is moved by rail. The balance is moved by truck and barge.

- (cont'd) -

The Kansas City Exchange is the only U.S. exchange that handles winter wheat, and half their business is in this commodity. The long-term average yield for winter wheat in Kansas is 28 bushels per acre. This state produces a quarter of America's winter wheat corp.

The United States now handles 52 per cent of all grains exported in the world. Seventy per cent of the corn, 50 per cent of the soybeans and 65 per cent of the wheat are used at home.

The government loan program in Kansas allowed a farm family visited by tour members to get a loan for $2.21 per bushel wheat for three years at 6 per cent interest about two years ago when wheat was only worth $1.31 per bushel. This farmer also gets a 25¢ per bushel annual storage payment. A few months ago wheat went to $3.17 a bushel, but instead of selling the wheat the farmer bought his contract back and is now feeding the wheat to cheap cattle he bought last fall. This farmer is also participating in the 20 per cent wheat set-aside program. He has planted the land taken out of wheat to alfalfa which will be used for silage.

One of the tour highlights was a visit to Far-Mar-Co, an 18.1 million bushel wheat and milo terminal at Hutchinson, Kansas. It has 1,000 concrete silo's and is half a mile long. There are four other terminals at Hutchinson, giving this city a storage capacity of 60 million bushels. All the grain is shipped out by rail. On a percentage basis, Alberta farmers have a lot more on-farm grain storage and appear to depend more on their large terminal storage facilities than the Americans.

Other agricultural points of interest were: good corn and soybean land in the mid-western United States is selling for $2,500 per acre. Grain handling co-ops handle 50 per cent of the grain in the United States, but export only 7 per cent of it; Cargill and Continental each export 25 per cent of U.S. grain and oilseed; North Dakota raises 75 per cent of the American durum wheat crop; infrared protein testing will be mandatory in May, 1979; the 1977 U.S. census shows 3.9 per cent of the population in the United States is on farms; the Omaha

- (cont'd) -

Agricultural Tour of Mid-West U.S.A. (cont'd)

stockyards, which act as a price barometer for U.S. livestock, handled one million head last year (the Calgary stockyards handled about 290,000 cattle and calves in the same period); the long-term yield average for U.S. soybeans is 28 bushels per acre; Kansas is spending a lot of research dollars on gasahol, a fuel made form grains, but it is still too expesive to use; textured vegetable protein use is expanding because of higher red meat prices, but its real future appears to be in countries where red meats do not rate as highly as here.

The tour in which 47 Alberta farmers and their wives participated was arranged by the Alberta Wheat Pool in Calgary. The main hosts were the Grain Terminal Association in Minneapolis, Farmland Industries in Kansas City and Far-Mar-Co in Hutchison, Kansas. They are all large diversified farmer-owned co-ops that get their main revenue from the handling and selling of grain.

- 30 -

August 7, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GREEN CROPS DRYING CONGRESS

Approximately 450 people from 30 countries are expected to attend the Second International Green Crops Drying Congress at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, from August 20 to 25.

Entitled "Dri-Crops '78", the congress is designed to promote an exchange of information among researchers, farmers and users of dehydrated green crops and to bring producers and buyers together.

Professor Herb Clark of the University of Saskatchewan's extention division, and coordinator of the congress, says that 60 papers will be presented during the technical sessions. Some of the titles are: 'Preparation of Alfalfa Protein Concentrates and Isolates for Human Consumption"; "Increasing the Yield and Quality of Alfalfa by Breeding and Field Management"; "New Process for Fast Field Drying of Alfalfa"; "Low Energy Drying System for Green Crops"; "Use of Geothermal Energy for Grass Drying in Iceland"; "Effects of the Dehydration Process on Nutritive Value" and "The Japanese Market for Dehydrated Forages". The demand for high quality products and the development of new products, increasing energy costs and marketing problems will also be discussed.

The congress will feature displays of both large and small equipment and machines. In addition, three tours of rural Saskatchewan are scheduled to give the delegates and visitors a chance to see that province's dehydration industry, family farms and some aspects of Western Canadian culture.

The Second International Green Crops Drying Congress (the first one was held at the University of Oxford, England in 1973) is being hosted by the Saskatchewan government and the provincial dehydration industry with government and industry assistance from Alberta.

- 30 -

August 7, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER FIELD DAY

Vine crops is the theme of this year's Alberta Horticultural Research Center field day which will be held on August 25. It will feature displays and discussions on the production and use of such vine crops as winter squash, zucchini, pumpkins, melons and cucumbers.

During the vegetable, fruit and ornamental plot tours, visitors will see the research that is being carried out on production techniques, pest control and variety selections. A limited number of tours will be made to experimental plots where special crops like fababeans, soybeans, field corn, millet and Jerusalem artichokes are being grown.

Exhibits of fruits, vegetables, greenhouse crops and special crops will give visitors an idea of the variety of produce that can be grown in southern Alberta, and a special exhibit on farm beautification should be of help to people planning a shelterbelt and other planting arrangements around their building sites. A house plant clinic and flower arranging demonstration will provide practical information for those interested in these topics.

Specialists in the plant pest clinic will be available to diagnose and discuss plant diseases and insect and weed problems. Visitors are invited to bring samples for the specialists to examine.

Home economists and food specialists will discuss the use of vine crops and offer samples of dishes prepared from these crops for tasting.

Horticultural enthusiasts and their families are invited to attend the field day, but it will not be possible to give special attention to groups because of the large number of people that are expected. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own picnic lunch which will be supplemented by fresh corn on-the-cob. Refreshments will also be provided at noon. There is no admission charge for the field day.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta Horticultural Research Center Field Day (cont'd)

Further details on the program, which will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until 4 p.m., can be obtained from the Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks (Telephone 362-3391).

- 30 -

August 7, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1978 CUSTOM RATES FOR FARM MACHINERY

Have you got a copy of the "1978 Farm Machinery Costs as a Guide to Custom Rates"?

It provides a breakdown of fixed and variable costs for commonly used farm implements and machines and is mainly intended as a guide for setting custom hiring rates.

Since farming situations often differ from the typical operations listed in the guide, worksheets are provided to enable the user to calculate his own costs on the basis of his own experience.

The publication includes labor and profit estimates so that the user can identify the items he wishes to cover in a fair custom charge. The fixed costs of depreciation, investment and housing are the main items to be considered here. A good neighbor custom charge, on the other hand, might be based on such variable costs as fuel, repairs and labor, while a specialist custom operator would want to include all fixed costs, all variable costs and a profit allowance to cover his risk and mangement.

The publication also lists the average custom rates charged by specialist operators in Alberta last year. The information was collected by the Agricultural Input Monitoring System, which continuously surveys a wide range of farm input costs.

Copies of the "1978 Farm Machinery Costs as a Guide to Custom Rates" can be obtained from the publications office, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

August 7, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALL PECTINS ARE NOT THE SAME

Although liquid and powdered pectin both make jam and jelly set, they cannot be used interchangably in recipes that call for one form or the other.

Aileen Whitmore, Alberta Agriculture's food nutrition specialist, explains that a gel is formed when pectin, sugar and acid are combined in the correct proportion under suitable conditions. Even though Certo, for example, has a liquid and a powder form, these products are prepared differently, the way they are used in jams and jellies are different and they require different amounts of sugar. "It is advisable," says Ms. Whitmore, "to follow the recipes that come with the form of Certo that you purchase."

It is also possible to make jams and jellies without the use of sugar if you use a gum to make them gel. One brand name is Slim Set. It contains vegetable gums that swell after the product has been added to the fruit or the juice and heated briefly.

According to Ms. Whitmore, there is a type of pectin on the market which gels without the addition of sugar. It sets because of the presence of certain calcium compounds, and the end-product requires much less sugar than is the case with the traditional types of pectin. "When making freezer jams, use the MCP brand of pectin for a fresh fruit flavor and a less sweet product," Ms. Whitemore says.

You can keep freezer jams for up to a year in a freezer but only up to about three weeks in a refrigerator. If they are kept in the refrigerator for longer than three weeks, they are apt to mold. When they are kept at room temperature, they will mold or ferment in an even shorter time. Once a container of frozen jam is opened, it should be kept in the refrigerator and used within a few days.

- 30 -

AL.1.691

AGRI·NEWS

August 14, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Fertilizer Plants Receive Federal-Provincial Assistance 1

Dairy Situation 2

Poultry Meat Situation 4

Egg Situation 6

Alberta Forage Report 7

Rapeseed Swathing 8

Provincial 4-H Light Horse Rally 10

Fly Control 11

Using Wild Blueberries 12

Home Economist Appointments 14

Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

August 14, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FERTILIZER PLANTS RECEIVE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL ASSISTANCE

Two Alberta fertilizer blending plants have received assistance under the federal-provincial Nutritive Processing Agreement. They are Coles Farm Services Ltd. of Smoky Lake and Reid Hill Agricultural Services Ltd. of Enchant.

Coles Farm Services Ltd. with estimated eligible capital costs of $49,587 will receive $6,942 to expand its operations to include the production of blended dry fertilizer and anhydrous amonia fertilizer. This custom blend service will be the first of its kind in the county of Smoky Lake and is expected to create one part-time job.

Reid Hill Agricultural Services Ltd. will receive $15,014. Its eligible capital costs are estimated at $125,120, and it will sell bulk and bagged fertilizers, nitrogen solutions, anhydrous ammonia and other chemicals. Approximately 80 per cent of the dry fertilizer will be blended. By its third year of operation, this fertilizer blending plant is expected to require four additional part-time workers.

The two grants were announced jointly by the federal minister of the Department of Regional Economic Development (DREE), Marcel Lessard, and Alberta's minister of Agriculture, Marvin Moore.

The federal-provincial Nutritive Processing Agreement was established to help firms that locate or expand their facilities in rural Alberta. Costs are shared equally by DREE and Alberta Agriculture.

- 30 -

August 14, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DAIRY SITUATION

The current price of red meats appears to be stimulating the demand for dairy products.

Alberta Agriculture's market analyst, Gordon Grosh, reports that Canada's total milk production in the first half of this year could be up by 1.7 per cent, and the industrial milk supply could be 2 per cent above last year's level. The increased deliveries in Quebec (up 6.4 per cent) and the Maritimes (up 10 per cent) more than offset lower deliveries in the rest of the country. Alberta's industrial deliveries under Market Share Quota dropped by 6.4 per cent in the second quarter and industrial milk deliveries in western Canada dropped by 2.5 per cent. Ontario's deliveries were down by 3.9 per cent, on the basis of the Canadian Dairy Commission's preliminary projections.

According to Mr. Grosh, fluid sales in Alberta are continuing to outpace national disappearance figures. Fluid sales in Alberta for the January to May period were 7.7 per cent above the 1977 level. In the first quarter of this year fluid sales outpaced national 1977 sales by only 2 per cent.

"The production mix of industrial dairy products in Alberta has changed," Mr. Grosh says. "In the first four months of this year the production of cheddar and specialty cheese increased by 37 per cent, while butter production dropped by 10 per cent as did concentrated milk and ice cream production."

Statistics Canada show an increase in the disappearance of butter and cheese, but it is felt that some of this statistical increase could be due to an understatement of 1977 consumption levels. The possibility exists that butter consumption may be levelling off and that cheese consumption, which has been relatively static during the past two years, may increase as it did in the late 1960's and early 1970's. "Should these early indications reflect an upward

- (cont'd) -

Dairy Situation (cont'd)

demand shift for industrial dairy products," says Mr. Grosh, "the problem of the Canadian Dairy Commission in the coming years may not be to restrict the industrial dairy quota, but rather to provide an incentive, in the form of economic returns, to keep industrial dairy producers in the industry."

- 30 -

August 14, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POULTRY MEAT SITUATION

Canada's supply of turkeys will probably be short by the end of the year, and the present vigorous demand for chicken is expected to continue for the foreseeable future.

Gordon Grosh, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, says that even though domestic turkey production for 1978 is expected to be 198 million pounds (3 million pounds above issued quotas), it appears that there will still not be enough turkey to meet the growing demand that has resulted from the price and supply movement of other meat commodities. Prices are expected to hold at current levels and could even move higher during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. Regardless of the level of American imports, minimal stock levels can be expected at the end of the year," Mr. Grosh says.

In the first six months of this year, 57.6 million pounds of turkey were produced in Canada, representing a 9.4 per cent drop compared with the same period last year. To date Alberta's production has dropped by 6 per cent.

Canadian supplies have been further tightened by a drop in U.S. imports of 1.8 million pounds eviscerated weight.

Commercial disappearance of turkey in Canada from January to the end of May of this year was 54.56 million pounds, up 6.2 per cent from the same period last year. This situation represents a continuation of the increased consumption trend recorded in 1977 and is partly due to a slower turkey price increase relative to red meats.

The Canadian Turkey Marketing Agency's decision to increase 1979 quotas to 210 million pounds will enable it to respond to requests for quotas from the more rapidly growing provinces like British Columbia and Alberta. The Alberta Turkey Board has proposed that this increased quota be distributed to each province in proportion to the shift in population that has taken place between 1974 and the current year.

- (cont'd) -

Poultry Meat Situation (cont'd)

"Should this proposal be approved," says Mr. Grosh, "it would set a precedent by acknowledging that provinces under national market sharing agreements have the right to retain the share of their provincial market that the original agreements allowed and that quotas should be adjusted to shifts in population."

Chicken

The demand for chicken in the second half of 1978 is expected to increase, providing that chicken prices increase more slowly than red meat prices.

Despite moderate increases in the supply of chicken during the first half of 1978, demand has outpaced production in Canada. Canadian disappearance in the first five months of this years was 329.1 million pounds or 6.5 per cent above the same period in 1977 and 12 per cent above the same period in 1976. Commercial sales in Alberta are up 9 per cent compared with the same period last year and 25 per cent compared with the same period in 1976.

As of June 1, storage stocks of chicken in Canada dropped to only 14.8 million pounds compared with 30.2 million pounds a year ago. "It is likely," says Mr. Grosh, "that these stocks will not build up significantly for several months."

Demand prospects for the coming fall appear optimistic. The main cause for this optimism is the lower price of chicken relative to red meats, which should further strengthen the demand for chicken. A consumption increase similar to that experienced by the industry from 1971-73 is probable in the next year or two.

August 14, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EGG SITUATION

Lower egg production in the second half of this year is expected to bring the Canadian supply and demand into a better balance.

Gordon Grosh, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, reports that Canadian egg production was up by 4 per cent in the first half of this year, resulting in an even larger surplus of eggs that had to be cleared by the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency (CEMA).

The domestic breaker trade increased its use of surplus eggs by 9 per cent in the first six months of this year, but most of the surplus eggs were exported. Exports during this period increased by 86 per cent.

"As export demand improved", says Mr. Grosh, "it was possible to find markets that were prepared to pay higher prices for the surplus eggs than was being obtained through domestic breaker discounts." However, this export demand has slowed down in recent months because of the large U.S. egg surplus. This means that more eggs will be available for the Canadian breaker trade during the rest of the summer.

It appears, however, that the downward trend in per capita consumption of eggs has stopped. Last year's per capita consumption was the same as it was in 1976, and this trend continued during the first three months of 1978.

Despite the present high commercial egg production level, CEMA has decided not to make any quota cuts. However, if the per capita consumption level holds to its 1977 level during the next six months, the surplus of eggs should be lower in 1979.

- 30 -

August 14, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA FORAGE REPORT

by Ken Motiuk
Statistician, Alberta Agriculture

Hay and forage crops have been quite variable in Alberta this summer.

In contrast with most years, there have been excellent hay crops in the southern parts of the province, while yields were average to below average in many north-central and northern districts. First-cut haying is nearing completion across the province, and second-cut crops are presently being harvested. Poor rainfall throughout the summer in central and northern areas has not provided for ample regrowth, and second-cut yields will be below average.

The quality of first-cut hay has been above average for the province. However, early summer rains caused considerable difficulty with the first-cut harvest in southern and western parts of Alberta, and crop deterioration was evident in the swaths. Most other parts of the province did not receive these rains, and proceeded to harvest hay crops of good to excellent quality.

Pastures and ranges in the southern parts of Alberta are in good to excellent condition, declining to only good to fair in the north. Heavy early growth, along with apparent lower stocking rates, appear to have kept most pastures in good condition. Rainfall is presently required in almost all areas as recent hot, dry weather in causing rapid range deterioration. Cattle are presently in good to excellent condition, though stress is becoming evident on some drier pastures in the northern and eastern parts of the province.

- 30 -

August 14, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAPESEED SWATHING

by Andy Birch
Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Stettler

If you are a new grower and lack experience and familiarity with the problems involved in rapeseed harvesting, you would be wise to contact an experienced grower; one who has grown the crop for several years. Ask him about his swathing and combining problems, the kinds of adjustments he has to make and how he determines when a crop is sufficiently mature to swath. In the meantime, here is some information on swathing rapeseed.

Stage of Maturity

Not all areas of the field will be at the same stage of maturity at the same time. Shattering is a problem in over ripe areas, while poorer oil quality is associated with immature rapeseed. Too early swathing (above 45 per cent seed moisture) reduces yield, while too late swathing (less than 20 per cent moisture) increases shattering losses and the danger of frost damage.

To get a representative sample of your rape crop, walk through it and take samples from several different parts of the field. Collect seed from both the upper and lower pods of the plant, mix them and determine what percentage of the seed has changed color. When the seeds contain about 35 per cent moisture, the crop is ready to cut. At this moisture level, the field will be a brownish green color, and about 25 per cent of the seeds will have changed from green to brown. At this stage they will feel firm when pressed between the fingers. Seed color is more important than field color in selecting the proper time for swathing. With the variety, Candle, look for a 25 per cent color change to either brown or light yellow seed

Swathing

Height of Cut

The swather table should be run just low enough to get all the pods. This leaves a maximum amount of stubble in which to anchor the swath and minimizes the amount of

- (cont'd) -

Rapeseed Swathing (cont'd)

material that must be handled by the swather and combine.

- *Table Depth and Throat*

Rapeseed plants that are tall, thick, lodged and tangled will present some problems in laying a good swath. Try to avoid bunching as this delays drying and creates problems in combining. A swather having enough depth of table (at least 42 inches), a large throat opening (40 to 51 inches), which is at least as wide as the distance between the two swather canvases on centre delivery swathers, and a vertical clearance for the swath of at least 30 to 40 inches will help minimize problems with heavy crops.

- *Swather Reel and Table*

A properly adjusted reel and table is important for preventing the unnecessary loss of pods and shattering. The reels should be set to match the forward speed of the swather, so that they gently lay the cut material back on the table rather than shelling it. Adjust the width of cut and forward speed of the swather so that the throat of the swather will handle the swath without bunching.

- *Table Dividers*

The table dividers of many cereal grain swathers may not be adequate for cutting heavy rapeseed crops that are lodged or tangled. The divider tip must split the crop down low in the stem area, and then lift and separate it as the swather movers forward. If the pods are growing very low on the stem on a very tall crop, closing in the divider or extending it three to four feet ahead of the table will help divide the crop before it comes in contact with the reels.

- *Swath Rollers*

Light, fluffly swaths can be easily blown about by the wind. A light roller pulled behind the swather will help anchor the swath into the stubble. The roller should be set high enough to just anchor the swath into the stubble without shelling any ripe pods. A well rolled swath is one that is just high enough in the stubble to allow the combine pickup to slip underneath it without tearing the swath.

August 14, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROVINCIAL 4-H LIGHT HORSE RALLY

The Red Deer Exhibition Association and Alberta Agriculture will jointly sponsor Alberta's first provincial 4-H light horse rally at the Red Deer Exhibition Grounds on August 25.

The purpose of the rally is to give 4-H light horse project members an opportunity to broaden their knowledge in the areas of judging, preparing and presenting demonstrations and using techniques and skills related to the training and management of horses. The rally will also provide an opportunity for light horse club members to display, through organized competitions, their judging and demonstration skills.

Every 4-H light horse club in the province is eligible to take part in one judging team, which will consist of a junior and a senior 4-H member, and one demonstration team, which will consist of two or more 4-H members between the ages of 10 and 21. The latter will give a presentation on some aspect of horse management.

The judging teams will judge the horse and rider in English equitation, western reining, western equitation and pairs (English and western) and two conformation classes (yearlings and mature horses).

The top two senior members in the judging teams and their counterparts in the other three western provinces will go to Regina in late November to take part in a judging program at the Canadian Western Agribition.

- 30 -

August 14, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FLY CONTROL

A number of electric flying insect traps have been developed to help reduce flies in such confined areas as offices, homes, milking parlors and rooms, small barns, auction sale rings, etc.

The traps consist of one or two ultraviolet lights surrounded by two screens. The flies are attracted to the screens, which are energized by a transformer, by the ultraviolet lights. When the flies attempt to fly between the screens, they are electrocuted.

Other methods that can be used to control flies include residual sprays that are applied as a low pressure spray to areas where flies congregate. Less chemical is required and more effective control is achieved when the application of a residual spray is limited to areas where the flies congregate. Depending upon the residual life of the insecticide, more than one application may be necessary.

Fly strips or bands are especially useful for restaurants, milking parlors and other places where spraying is not permitted. The flies are either killed by contact with the strips or bands or by the fumigant they release.

Fly baits mainly consist of an attractive bait mixed with an insecticide. They are not always effective in controlling flies when used alone, but provide very satisfactory control when used in combination with a residual spray. Their effectiveness is greatly increased if they are placed in areas where flies congregate.

A recently revised leaflet entitled "Control of Houseflies in Alberta" lists a number of residual sprays, describes how to prepare them and gives instructions on their application. It also tells how to control flies in milking parlors and milk processing rooms as well as giving information on the use of baits and strips.

"Control of Houseflies in Alberta" can be obtained from district agriculturists and from the publications office, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

August 14, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USING WILD BLUEBERRIES

What do you do when you arrive home from a camping trip with wild blueberries filling every nook and cranny of your car?

Helen Raynard of Alberta Agriculture's home economics laboratory says there are many things you can do with wild blueberries. "You can wash them and serve them with cream and sugar, you can make them into a delicious pie, you can freeze them, you can can them or you can make them into jam."

To make a filling for a two-crust, nine-inch pie, mix 4 cups of blueberries; 2/3 or 3/4 of a cup of sugar, depending upon your taste; 3 tablespoons of tapioca and 2 tablespoons of lemon juice. Put the filling into the pie crust and bake it at 450° F. for about 10 minutes. Then reduce the heat to 350° F. and continue baking for another 30 or 40 minutes.

To freeze blueberries for serving uncooked, mix 6 cups of blueberries with one cup of sugar. Stir the berries gently until the sugar has dissolved in the juice. Then pack the berries in freezer cartons.

If the skins seem tough, try steam blanching the berries for one minute before freezing them. Be sure to chill them quickly before putting them into the freezer cartons.

To freeze blueberries for use in pies, wash and dry them thoroughly. Then measure them out into pie-sized portions, pack them dry in freezer bags and freeze them quickly.

To can blueberries, prepare a very thin syrup (mix one cup of sugar and 3 cups of water and bring to the boil) and keep it hot. Fill clean, hot sealers to within an inch of the top with clean berries and then add boiling syrup to within half an inch of the top. If you are using metal lids on your sealers, simply tighten the metal bands. If you are using glass tops, tighten the metal bands and then loosen them by a quarter turn. Then put the jars into sufficient boiling water to cover them by at least two inches and process the fruit for 15 minutes per pint or 20 minutes per quart.

- (cont'd) -

Using Wild Blueberries (cont'd)

To can blueberries for use in pies, crush a few of the berries in the bottom of a heavy kettle. Then add the remaining berries and heat them for a few minutes and stir them occasionally. If necessary, add a little water to prevent them from scorching.

Next pack alternative layers of fruit and sugar, using 1/3 of a cup of sugar per quart, in clean sealers. Push the berries down slightly so that they are covered in juice. Leave a space at the top of the sealers and process as recommended above.

To make blueberry jam, combine 8 cups of blueberries with 4 cups of rhubarb (cut-up). Add one cup of water and precook the berries and rhubarb for 10 minutes. Add 4 cups of sugar and boil (uncovered) until the fruit reaches the jam stage-----usually seven to 10 minutes.

Pour the fruit into hot, sterilized jars, leaving a quarter-inch of space at the top. Cool the fruit slightly and pour on a thin layer of hot melted paraffin. Put the covers on the jars and store the jam in a cool, dry place.

If you do not have a cool place to store your jams, use sealers instead of jars, use proper sealer lids instead of the paraffin and submerge the jars in boiling water for 10 minutes.

Since blueberries are not as perishable as most berries, they can be kept in the refrigerator for several days. However, they are likely to develop a tough-textured skin if they are kept too long, especially if the temperature in the refrigerator is warmer than 4^{o} C. For this reason, Mrs. Raynard recommends preserving blueberries as quickly as possible after you have picked them. She says they should not be washed until just before you use them in whatever form you decide.

August 14, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOME ECONOMIST APPOINTMENTS

The head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, Vera Macdonald, has announced the following appointments.

Karen McDougall has been appointed to the position of district home economist at Calgary. She replaces Judy Lloyd who was promoted to regional home management specialist working out of Airdrie.

Mrs. McDougall took her training in the Lethbridge extension office before being appointed district home economist for the Warner office. She has worked with the Lethbridge Exhibition Board in planning their Ag Expo and Whoop-up Days and was chairman of the Women's Short Course for southern Alberta, which was held at Waterton Lake Park.

Mary Guise has been appointed to the position of home economics assistant at the Home Economics Laboratory in Edmonton. She will be assisting the food and nutrition and home management specialists.

Laura Marie Kirchner has been appointed to the position of district home economist at Thorhild. She replaces June Edwards who has transferred to Westlock.

Miss Kirchner took her training with the district home economist at Morinville

- 30 -

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
9
SEP 1 1978

August 21, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Some Results from the Breton Experimental Plots 1

Marketing Culled Cows 3

Fleabeetles Attack Rape Crops 4

Effects of Commercial Fertilizer on Forage Quality 5

MMA Complex in Sows 7

Barn Alarm Systems 10

Two Rape Crops from one Seeding 12

Surface Rights in Alberta 14

Preserving Flowers with Silica Gel 16

Information Sheets Available from Women's Bureau. 18

Director Marketing Services Division Appointed 19

Head of Pork Industry Branch Appointed. 20

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

Phone (403) 427-2127

August 21, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOME RESULTS FROM THE BRETON EXPERIMENTAL PLOTS

The cairn, errected in 1960 to mark the 30th anniversary of the Breton plots at Breton, Alberta, reads: "In this field in 1930 Professors F. A. Wyatt and J. D. Newton began experimental work on the farm of Ben Flesher. These experiments have shown the need for fertilizers coupled with good crop rotations on soils of this type and have led to greatly increased production on the Grey Wooded soils of the west."

The plots at Breton, Alberta, established in 1930 by the University of Alberta, were initially set out to compare a four-year wheat, oat, barley and hay rotation with continuous wheat. Twenty years later the four-year rotation was changed to a five-year rotation of wheat, oats, barley, hay and hay and the continuous wheat cropping was changed to wheat-fallow.

After only a few years of testing, it became clear that the gray Luvisolic (gray wooded) soils were deficient in both nitrogen and sulphur. While a nitrogen deficiency was expected, the sulphur deficiency came as a surprise because sulphur deficiencies have seldom been reported in other parts of the world. The sulphur deficiency was especially noticeable in legume crops which obtain their nitrogen from the air.

- (cont'd) -

Some Results from the Breton Experimental Plots (cont'd)

When nitrogen and sulphur have been added to these soils, phosphorus apparently gives some additional benefit. However, to date the addition of potassium has not had any apparent beneficial results.

The researchers report that plots which have been fertilized with commercial nitrogen have become more acidic (by about 0.5 pH units) compared with the check plots. Where the acidification is greatest, the pH is now low enough to restrict the growth of legumes. Applications of lime generally improved the yields of hay crops and grain crops that follow the hay.

Manure applied at the rate of four tons per acre per year has been very beneficial. In fact, it has produced some of the highest yields of all the treatments. It is important to note, however, that at the rate it was applied, it supplied four times as much nitrogen and more potassium than any of the commercial fertilizers used, but it is rather low in sulphur. It is also important to note that the manure did not change the pH value of the soil when compared with the check plots.

The Breton plots have shown that the soil tilth is generally much better after the five-year rotation than it is in the wheat-summerfallow rotation. This is probably because of the fibrous grass roots in the forage crops and because the soil is not fallowed. Soil humus and fibre both decompose rapidly in fallow. The fact that the straw has not been returned to any of the plots has, undoubtedly, accelerated the destruction of the soil tilth.

The researchers have found that the nutritive value of hay from the fertilized plots is higher than that from the unfertilized plots. The nutritive value of grain following legumes has also been found to be superior to that in the grain-fallow rotation. Fertilizers which increased cereal crop yields have also tended to increase their nutritive value. Manure tended to improve the nutritive value of wheat grown under the grain-fallow rotation.

August 21, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARKETING CULLED COWS

Did you know that with the proper management culled beef cows of up to four years of age have a good chance of grading in the Canada A grade when they are slaughtered?

According to Dr. Mick Price of the University of Alberta's Department of Animal Science, culled beef cows have the best chance of making the A grade if they are fed for three or four months before they are slaughtered. ''Even though they will be that much older when slaughtered, the improvement in their conformation and finish more than compensates for the additional age,'' he says.

The reason that a culled cow is more likely to qualify for a ''youthful'' grade (A grade) when it has been fed for a few months is that the grading regulations allow more ossification of the bone (the criterion of aging) in a well muscled carcass than in the carcass of an animal that was in poor condition when it was slaughtered. Any ossification in the carcass of an animal that was in poor condition will automatically put it in the ''intermediate'' age category, which means that at best it can only qualify for a C grade.

Dr. Price says that culled cows respond well to good nutrition during the winter months and gain weight quite rapidly. Since a large portion of the additional weight is muscle (red meat) rather than fat, it is very efficent in terms of feed per pound of gain, and will be quite profitable in most years.

Dr. Price recommends selling culled cows by rail-grading rather than on a liveweight basis. He points out that because the buyer has no way of telling the true age of a cow that is sold on a liveweight basis, he will automatically assume that she is physiologically mature and that she has advanced ossification. Also, because he has no way of telling whether or not she is pregnant, he will reduce his estimate of her carcass weight, and his bid price will be based on what he estimates her carcass weight would be if she were in calf.

The seller, on the other hand, should know the age of the animal and whether or not she is in calf. ''If she is open and four years old or less, the one way he can get her full

- (cont'd) -

Marketing Culled Cows (cont'd)

market value is to sell her by rail-grade," Dr. Price says, "Payment will then be based on the cow's actual carcass weight and her actual physiological characteristics."

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FLEABEETLES ATTACK RAPE CROPS

The entomology section of Alberta Agriculture's plant industry laboratory has received numerous calls from farmers in central and east-central regions of the province wanting to know what they should do about the large number of fleabeetles which are attacking their rape crops.

Hugh Philip, head of the entomology laboratory, says there is no need to do anything if the crop will be harvested within the next two weeks. However, if it is heavily infested with beetles (30 to 40 per plant) throughout the field and will not be harvested for more than two weeks, it may require an application of malathion.

If you are not sure whether or not you should spray your rape crop contact your agricultural fieldman or district agriculturist.

- 30 -

August 21, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EFFECTS OF COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER ON FORAGE QUALITY

Why is it that two feeds with the same protein and mineral content sometimes show spectacular differences in feed efficiency?

Alberta Agriculture's forage crops specialist, Larry Gareau, says it could be because the composition of the protein and mineral compounds in the two feeds are different, and that this difference could have been caused by the crops having been grown under different conditions, particularly with regard to soil fertility.

While doing research for his masters degree in soil science, Mr. Gareau investigated the effects of commercial fertilizers on the yield and feeding quality of forage crops. He used chemical analysis and feeding trials to determine the quality. However, he feels that the true value of the increased feeding quality of fertilized forage was revealed in the feeding trials. Chemical analysis showed that the addition of a commercial fertilizer only slightly improved the protein and mineral contents of most forage, but that in some cases it improved the protein content by as much as 30 per cent and the mineral content by as much as 20 per cent.

Rabbits were used in the feeding trials because they are known to assimilate forage in a manner similar to that of a horse or a cow. Spectacular differences in the response of the rabbits to fertilized and unfertilized feed were recorded in the trials. For example, the rabbits fed on feed that had received a complete fertilizer grew twice as fast as their littermates which had been fed forage that was grown in the same field but without any fertilizer. It is also interesting to note that the rabbits fed the unfertilized feed showed signs of anemia and malnutrition towards the end of the experiment. Rabbits in the palatability trials also showed a definite preference for the fertilized forage.

Mr. Gareau says that his research project showed, without a doubt, that scientists cannot restrict themselves to field trials and yield tests if they want to fully evaluate the effects

- (cont'd) -

of commercial fertilizers on forage. Although very profitable yield increases may be obtained from the use of a fertilizer, in many cases the increase in total digestible nutrients and health producing elements are far more valuable.

The research results also clearly indicated that the chemical analysis of feed samples does not give an accurate measure of the value of the feed from the point of view of producing animal gains. "There is no doubt", says Mr. Gareau, "that feeds that are high in nitrogen, phosphorus and calcium are desirable, but these could be given in the form of a supplement. Unlike plants, animals cannot subsist on simple elemental substances. They need numerous complex substances that, in many cases, are ill-defined chemically or not defined at all. Furthermore, the effects of nutrient interactions on the physiological processes in an animal are generally unknown.Finally, the content of a nutrient in a plant is not a measure of its availability to the animal anymore than a mineral element in the soil is a measure of its availability to the plant."

Although the above research was done 25 years ago, it still has an extremely important practical significance to the modern farmer. It shows that the calculation of yield increases alone are not a satisfactory measure of the effect of a commercial fertilizer on forage crops. A substantial value must be given to the increased nutritive quality of the forage as indicated by an increase in the protein content, and the essential mineral elements as well as by improved palatability and greater feed efficiency. According to Mr. Gareau this value, which often goes unnoticed may be the most important one from the point of view of monetary returns.

He thinks that it is unfortunate that his work has not been followed up since there is a great need for more practical research in this area. "It would make an ideal research project," he says, "for a graduate student interested in soil and plant fertility work or feed testing and animal nutrition."

August 21, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MMA COMPLEX IN SOWS

The term MMA Complex is often used to describe what is bascially the failure of a newly farrowed sow to produce sufficient milk to sustain her litter.

Its incidence in Alberta varies considerably from one farm to another, according to Dr. M. W. Stone, head of Alberta Agriculture's herd health programs. He says that all the sows farrowing in a given period on some farms may suffer from this condition, and then, for no apparent reason, subsequent farrowings will be normal. He also says that the incidence of MMA has been diagnosed much more frequently in recent years, particularly in intensive confinement operations. Because of the high losses in terms of weight and death in baby pigs, MMA is a serious economic disease.

It usually affects sows during the first 36 to 48 hours after they have farrowed. Often the sow is uneasy and lies on her stomach to prevent her litter from nursing. If she lies on her side, it will be apparent that the baby pigs are hungry. They may even have diarrhea, which may have been caused by lack of milk, infection or toxins produced by the sow.

Sows suffering from MMA are often partially or completely off their feed, and they may run a temperature of as high as 41° C (106° F). The udders of such sows are firm and hot. When the teats are squeezed little or no milk will appear. Constipation is another symptom that frequently accompanies MMA. Often the sow will only rise if forced to do so. A vaginal discharge may or may not be present. When it is, it frequently has a milky appearance.

The aim of treatment is to restore the sow's milk flow as quickly as possible. The broadest possible form of treatment is generally followed because the exact cause of the condition is usually not known.

Although some veterinarians like a broad spectrum antibiotic such as one of the tetracyclines, most recommend a posterior pituitary extract (oxytocin) and an antibiotic like pen-strep. In many cases, the oxytocin causes an almost immediate let down of milk. It also causes a contraction of the uterus with the result that any retained fetuses, afterbirth or infection tends to be expelled.

- (cont'd) -

MMA Complex In Sows (cont'd)

"MMA should be treated as soon as it is recognized," says Dr. Stone. "If a sow with MMA is left for 24 hours before receiving treatment, there is a good chance that her milk will dry up." Some hogmen treat all their sows for MMA as soon as they have farrowed, but this practice is not recommended because the oxytocin could upset a normal lactation and because antibiotics should never be used unncecessarily.

To prevent the occurrence of MMA, Dr. Stone recommends that careful attention be paid to management, breeding, feeding and sanitation practices. "Sows should never be overstressed," he says. Overcrowded, damp, drafty housing, dirty drinking water and mixing sows and gilts together should all be avoided. Sows should not be abused, and they should be fed at the same time each day.

"It is important", Dr. Stone says, "to select gilts with well spaced, prominent teats." They should be at least eight months of age before they are bred, and they should be well grown and have a healthy appearance. Animals with a prominent vulva are more likely to be sexually mature than those that do not have this characteristic.

Both gilts and sows should be feed a well balanced ration. According to Dr. Stone, some hogmen in the United States feed a medicated starter ration to their gilts for a short time after they have been selected for the breeding herd. The idea is to reduce the stress that the animals are likely to experience when they are moved out of a feeder barn and mixed in fairly large groups on pasture.

The ration for sows and gilts just prior to and immediately following farrowing should contain at least 440 kg of bran per ton. Some veterinarians recommend 440 kg of alfalfa meal per ton as well. Dr. Stone says antibiotics should not be fed before or immediately after farfowing. Such a practice does not appear to have any effect on the incidence of MMA and is known to encourage the build-up of resistant strains of bacteria.

If constipation occurs with the above ration, the addition of 22 to 23 kg of potassium chloride per ton of feed will help alleviate the condition. If a sow goes off her feed

- (cont'd) -

MMA Complex In Sows (cont'd)

in a farrowing barn where the temperature is 24° to 27° C, the temperature should be lowered and the baby pigs kept warm with supplemental heat. Lactating sows should always have plenty of fresh, clean water.

Some veterinarians feel that the administration of an E. coli bacterin to sows before they farrow will reduce the incidence of MMA. According to Dr. Stone, such bacterins have had little effect in the past on the incidence of either MMA or baby pig scours. However, he feels that the new live vaccines that are now being tested may give some control of MMA.

Although it is good management to cull all poor milkers from a sow herd, this does not necessarily mean that sows which have suffered from MMA should be culled. Dr. Stone says many of these animals will lactate normally the next time they farrow.

- 30 -

August 21, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BARN ALARM SYSTEMS

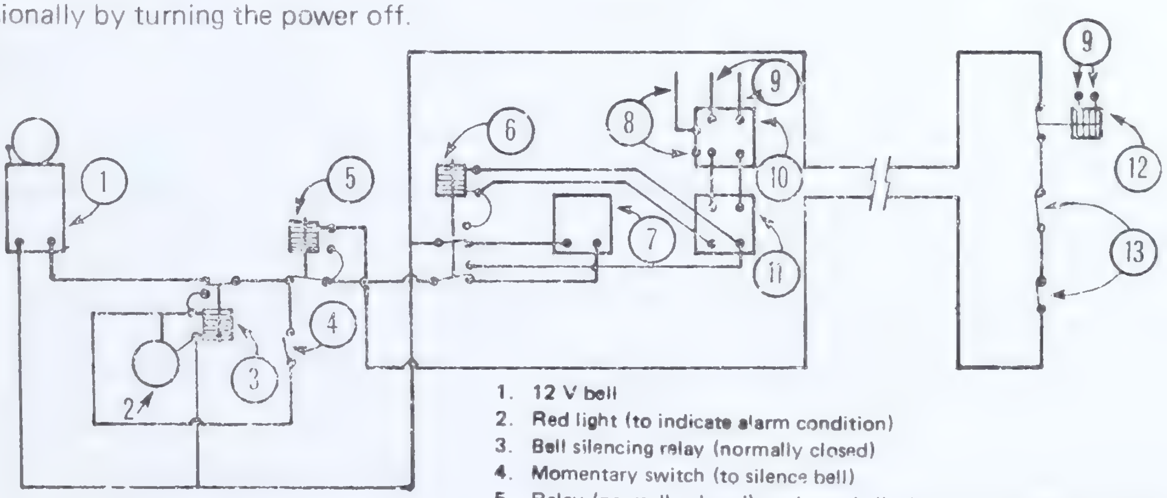
Do you have an alarm system in your barn? Have you ever thought it would be a good idea to have one?

Among the more common dangers for which barn alarm systems are designed are fire, smoke, power interruptions, temperature fluctuations and ventilation irregularities.

When one considers the replacement costs of a barn and its contents plus the potential cash flow loss, a barn alarm system makes good sense. Even a few moments can make the difference between saving and losing the livestock in an intensive livestock operation.

Alberta Agriculture's engineering technologist Len Heilemann, located at Red Deer, has designed three barn alarm systems. All are capable of providing the same warning, but they vary in terms of the possibility of the system being interrupted.

The first system, illustrated below, uses a transformer and normally closed sensors. It is the best of the three systems because a break in the line between the house and the barn or a bad connection will cause the bell to ring. However, the battery should be checked occasionally by turning the power off.



1. 12 V bell
2. Red light (to indicate alarm condition)
3. Bell silencing relay (normally closed)
4. Momentary switch (to silence bell)
5. Relay (normally closed), activates bell when sensors open the circuit
6. Relay (normally closed), engages battery to operate bell when power outage occurs
7. 12 V battery
8. Grounding conductor to transformer case as one side of the secondary coil to transformer case
9. 110 V power supply
10. 110 V – 12 V current limiting transformer (4 amps)
11. Rectifier 12 VAC to 12 VDC
12. 110 V time delay relay for power outage (normally open)
13. High and low thermostats, etc.

- (cont'd) -

Barn Alarm Systems (cont'd)

The second system has a bell silencing relay and a battery. It is a good system and could be installed by a person with relatively little wiring experience. However, it must be tested frequently by using the test switch and light in the barn because a break in the line between the house and the barn or a bad connection will make the system inoperative. When this happens, the bell will not ring.

The third system is not as good as either of the other two because it has to be turned on and off manually. The alarm system is turned off while the problem is being investigated and it is very possible to forget to turn it on again.

Illustrations of the second and third barn alarm systems are contained in a leaflet entitled "Barn Alarm Systems". It can be obtained from district agriculturists and from the publications office, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

August 21, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO RAPE CROPS FROM ONE SEEDING

Gotthold Reich, a farmer near Bashaw, Alberta, has a different way of growing rape. He gets two crops from one seeding!

In addition to growing rape on the 13 quarters of land he farms, Mr. Reich grows wheat, oats and barley and raises purebred Angus and purebred Charolais cattle. This year he has 380 acres in rape, 80 acres of which are volunteer. He started growing rape five years ago, and this is the third year he has harvested a volunteer crop.

He applies 60 pounds of straight nitrogen in the form of anhydrous ammonia to his regular rape crop in the spring and the fall and normally drills in 60 pounds of 11 - 48 with the seed. However, this year he used 80 pounds and says the results were excellent. His volunteer crop receives 60 pounds of straight nitrogen in the fall only, but next year he plans to increase this rate to 100 pounds and to use a blended fertilizer like 27-27 or 23-23 in the spring.

Mr. Reich uses the pre-emergent herbicide, Cobex, on his regular rape crop, but does not treat the volunteer crop for weeds. He says Cobex provides good weed control for two years.

The regular rape crop is grown on summerfallow and last year's yield was 50 bushels to the acre, compared with 34 bushels to the acre for the volunteer crop.

In the fall, Mr. Reich goes over the part of his regular crop that will produce the volunteer crop the following year with a tandem disc. In the spring he cultivates it and uses a rodweeder. To give a more even stand, these operations are done at an angle to the fall disking.

Mr. Reich has not encountered any problems with soil compaction in his volunteer crop, perhaps because his soil is heavy black loam. His main problem has been that the volunteer stand often comes in too thickly. When it is too thick, he uses a cultivator to thin it out.

- (cont'd) -

Two Rape Crops from One Seeding (cont'd)

He believes that it would probably be possible, with proper fertilization, to get more than one volunteer crop from one seeding, but he thinks there could be problems with weeds as well as disease.

The only disadvantage that he sees in growing volunteer rape is that the yield is lower than that of his regular crop. Since the regular crop is always grown on summerfallow, he has not been able to compare the yield from his volunteer rape with the yield from stubble-grown rape.

Among the advantages of a volunteer rape crop are fewer cultural and chemical operations, which means a saving in moisture, and the elimination of the worry of trying to get equipment on to the field during a late, wet spring. However, the greatest benefit is the fact that the volunteer crop is ready to harvest at least two weeks before the main crop. "This," says Mr. Reich, "enables one to take advantage of the long summer days and spreads out the harvesting workload."

- 30 -

August 21, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SURFACE RIGHTS IN ALBERTA

Can you as a farmer legally refuse to allow on your land a company or a person who has the right to work the minerals under the surface of the land or who has been authorized by some other legislation to construct a pipeline, power line or telephone line?

According to a pamphlet entitled "Surface Rights in Alberta", you have the right to refuse an operator, as such a company or person is called, admission to your land until a satisfactory agreement has been reached between the two of you, or he has obtained a right of entry order from the Surface Rights Board. However, after having made a reasonable attempt to notify a land owner, a surveyor has the legal right to go on to any land in Alberta to do a survey for the operator. The operator is liable for any damage caused by the surveyor.

In the case of surface leases, the law requires that the proposed lease be left with the farmer for 48 hours so that he can decide whether or not he wants to sign it. If he is not satisfied with the area to be taken, the amount of compensation to be paid, or any other provision in the lease, he can return it unsigned to the operator's representative. If, on the other hand, the lease is satisfactory, or if the farmer can get the terms changed so that it is satisfactory, he can sign it without involving the Surface Rights Act or the Surface Rights Board.

If a farmer decides not to sign a surface lease, the operator has to apply to the Surface Rights Board for a right of entry order covering the portion of the surface required for the well site, access roadway, battery site, pipeline, power line, telephone line, etc. A copy of the application and a notice must be served on the owner and each occupant of the land. In the case of a well site, access roadway, battery site or the opening of a mine, the board may grant a right of entry order after seven days. In the case of a pipeline, power line or telephone line, it may grant a right of entry order after 21 days.

- (cont'd) -

Surface Rights In Alberta (cont'd)

A farmer who objects to a right of entry order can submit his objection in writing to the board regarding any matters except those dealing with the amount of compensation to be paid.

Upon receiving an objection, the Surface Rights Board will decide whether a hearing should be held before a right of entry order is granted or whether the objection should be made to the Energy Resources Conservation Board. The Surface Rights Board will advise the person submitting the objection of its decision.

It should be noted that the Surface Rights Board has no jurisdiction or authority over the location of a well site or mine opening or over the routes of pipelines, power lines or telephone lines. Objections regarding any of these should be made to the Energy Resources Conservation Board, 603 - 6th Avenue South West, Calgary.

Information on determining payment for right of entry or a surface lease; timing of the right of entry payment; legal representation for farmers; appealing a compensation order; the length of time a surface lease or right of entry order remains in effect; collecting for damages caused by the operator after the surface lease has been signed or the compensation order issued; adjusting or reviewing the rental under a surface lease or the annual compensation under a board order; and the non-payment of rental or annual compensation on the date that it is due is contained in the publication, "Surface Rights in Alberta". It is available from your district agriculturist. Anyone who has questions not covered in this publication can contact the Surface Rights Board in Edmonton. The address is 16th Floor, Century Place, 9803 - 102A Avenue, Edmonton, T5J 3A3 (Telephone number 427-2444) or the Surface Rights Board in Calgary. The address is Mezzanine Floor, J. J. Bowlen Building, 620 - 7th Avenue South West, Calgary, T2P 0Y8 (Telephone number 261-6467).

August 21, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESERVING FLOWERS WITH SILICA GEL

The quick-drying silica gel method of preserving flowers has become popular because it preserves the natural color of the flowers and because it can be used to preserve species that are difficult or impossible to preserve by other methods.

Alberta Agriculture's horticultural specialist, Chris Campbell, says that flowers that are going to be preserved with silica gel must be fresh and free of dew or other moisture. Before they are treated, their stems should be either reinforced or replaced with florist's wire. If they are to be reinforced, the wire should be inserted through the stem up to the base of the flower. If the stem is to be replaced, a quarter to a half inch of stem is usually left on the flower and a 20 cm or shorter length of wire is forced through the piece stem and pushed into the centre of the bloom. The projecting end of the wire is then bent into a small, open hook and pushed down into the bloom. The method of wiring used will depend upon the species of flower.

Ms. Campbell explains that silica gel preserves flowers by absorbing their moisture, and that timing is very important during the drying process. Flowers that are overdried will become brittle, shrink excessively, and their petals are like to turn brown.

To use the quick-drying silica gel method for preserving flowers put one or two inches of silica gel in the bottom of a flat metal container and lay the flowers on it, either face up or face down, depending upon the species. Be careful not to let the flowers touch each other. Then gently sprinkle silica gel around and in between the petals until the blooms are completely covered. Try to sprinkle the silica gel in such a way that you do not disturb the natural position of the petals. The next step is to put the uncovered container in a 100° to 150° F oven for four to 18 hours, depending upon the type of flower that is being treated.

- (cont'd) -

Preserving Flowers with Silica Gel (cont'd)

If you would prefer to use the conventional silica gel method of preserving flowers, the procedure is exactly the same as above except that you should put the flowers in a container which can be tightly sealed after you have buried the flowers in the silica gel. The container should then be placed in a warm, dry place and left for a few days.

Ms. Campbell says silica gel can be obtained commercially under such trade names as Flower-Dri and Flora-Cure and is available from many large florists and garden supply centres. These commercially prepared products often contain crystals which are blue when dry and which turn a rosy beige when saturated with moisture. The gel can generally be used several times before it has to be dried out. The best way of drying it is to place it in an open pan in a 250° F oven until the crystals turn blue again. Silica gel should always be allowed to cool before it is used, and it should be stored in an airtight container so that it does not absorb moisture from the air.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INFORMATION SHEETS AVAILABLE FROM WOMEN'S BUREAU

The Alberta Women's Bureau has free information sheets available on the following topics.

- How to Prepare a Meaningful Resume (when applying for a job)
- Alberta Labour Legislation of Interest to Women in the Paid Work Force
- Changing your Name
- When you're Alone — Helping you Cope with Widowhood
- Wills and Estates for Albertans
- Establishing a Good Credit Record
- The Illegitimate Child
- Children — Custody and Access
- What's it all About — a Brief Look at the Women's Movement
- A Woman's Rights

The Alberta Women's Bureau is a provincial government agency which researches and prepares information on topics of particular interest to women that is not available from other departments. If the information requested is available from another department or agency, the bureau will give referral assistance.

Further information on the services available from the bureau and copies of any of the above information sheets can be obtained from the Alberta Women's Bureau at 1402 Centennial Building, 10015 - 103 Avenue, Edmonton, T5J 0H1 (Telephone 427-2470).

- 30 -

August 21, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DIRECTOR MARKETING SERVICES DIVISION APPOINTED

J. H. Hanna, assistant deputy minister of Alberta Agriculture's economic and marketing services, has announced the appointment of Dennis L. Glover to the position of director of marketing services.

Mr. Glover graduated from the Faculty of Commerce, Finance and Economics at the University of Alberta with a master's degree in business administration in 1972. Following graduation he joined Alberta Agriculture's marketing analysis unit. He subsequently worked in the international marketing area. In 1977 he joined Xerox of Canada Limited. Prior to rejoining Alberta Agriculture on August 15, 1978, he held the position of manager, major accounts administration for Xerox of Canada Limited.

- 30 -

August 21, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEAD OF PORK INDUSTRY BRANCH APPOINTED

H. Morley Douglas, Alberta Agriculture's assistant deputy minister of production, has announced the appointment of Frederick William Schuld to the position of head of the pork industry branch.

Mr. Schuld was born in Lethbridge and obtained his B. Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Alberta in 1964, having specialized in animal science. He completed his M. Sc. (animal nutrition) in May of 1967.

During the summers of 1963 and 64, Mr. Schuld worked as a grazing surveyor for the provincial Department of Lands and Forests and as a credit advisor for the Farm Credit Coporation respectively.

From September 1965 to June 1967 he had a part-time graduate teaching assistantship under Dr. J. P. Bowland of the University of Alberta's Department of Animal Science. From June 1967 to June 1970, he lectured in animal science at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food's Ridgetown College of Agricultural Technology.

Mr. Schuld spent from 1970 to 1974 as an agriculturalist-missionary for the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee in the Philippines. In 1974 he joined Alberta Agriculture and became regional swine specialist at Red Deer. He has held that position until his present appointment.

Mr. Schuld has published many papers on animal nutrition.

- 30 -

AL.1.691

AGRI·NEWS

NATIONAL LIBRARY
CANADA
SEP 1 1978

August 28, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Alfalfa Winter Injury 1
Purchasing a Grain Dryer 3
Planting Forage Crops in the Fall 5
Wildlife Damage Fund 7
Grain Loss Monitors 8
Growing Winter Wheat 10
Evaluate Your Fertilizer Program During Harvesting 12
Rapeseed Combining and Storage Hints 13
Mushroom Collecting for Beginners 17
Fresh Corn on the Cob 19
Agricultural Products Marketing Council Appointment 20

Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

August 28, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALFALFA WINTER INJURY

by Dave Stelfox
Alberta Agriculture

Do not be misled by the apparent health of your alfalfa stand --- all may not be well!

Results of early summer field investigations and continuing laboratory studies by plant pathologists at Alberta Agriculture's plant industry laboratory in Edmonton present a rather alarming picture concerning the health of alfalfa crops in north-central Alberta. The foliage on numerous fields in this area still looks fairly good, but examination of alfalfa crown and root systems indicates that a large proportion of plants almost perished last winter. Some stands suffered crown and below-ground injury to such an extent that affected plants were stunted, weakened, and bore few stems. Such alfalfa showed strong evidence of either crown rot or root rot or both. Under these circumstances the prescribed remedy is prolonged rest for the crop (no cutting or grazing) for the first 10 weeks of the growing season accompanied by a ready supply of balanced soil nutrients.

Unfortunately, the first cutting this summer was frequently done while weakened alfalfa stands were still attempting to replenish depleted food reserves. Plants were also trying to halt winter root and crown invasion by harmful soilborne fungi. Now is a critical period for alfalfa plants attempting to store winter food reserves and preparing for fall hardening-off. The survival rate of those that received harsh treatment in early summer can still be increased if no second cut is taken or if cutting or grazing is delayed at least until crop growth ceases in the late fall.

Unlike livestock and their handlers who can move into winter shelter, perennial forage crops such as alfalfa must endure harsh weather and soil conditions combined with attacks by low temperature, soilborne disease fungi. These fungi, like the wolves associated with the

- (cont'd) -

Alfalfa Winter Injury (cont'd)

barrenlands caribou herds, quickly respond to weakness of alfalfa root and crown tissues in the winter months. The ability to ward off such fungal attacks not only depends upon adequate snow cover to lessen freezing injury but also on the vigor of each plant when winter begins.

One of the more noticeable factors affecting plant vigor is the effect of unharvested swaths lying for long periods following cutting. In the present disease study numerous fields have been observed where long parallel strips of weed growth marked the killing-out of alfalfa. Examination of alfalfa plants lifted in the spring showed that many more in the swath strips were affected by crown rot and root rot compared with plants which were growing between the swaths. Plants that have been covered for some time by cut forage make poorer regrowth and are harder hit by soilborne diseases in late fall, winter, and early spring.

An increasing number of growers appear to be lifting alfalfa plants in early spring and sending them to plant pathologists for disease diagnoses and recommendations aimed at lengthening the life of their crops. It may eventually be possible to prepare a root and crown injury key to guide growers in examining plants and deciding what measures may best prolong the life and productivity of alfalfa stands. In the meantime, decisions regarding late summer cutting and grazing will affect the viability of a large portion of the crops that managed to survive the 1977-78 severe winterkill.

August 28, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PURCHASING A GRAIN DRYER

If you are thinking of buying a grain dryer, the following information may help you to decide on the type of dryer that will be most suitable for your particular harvesting system.

Grain dryers come in many sizes and types. There are the in-bin batch, the recirculating batch and the continuous flow systems. Some units are stationary, some are portable, some are powered electrically, some are powered by a tractor, some run on natural gas and some run on propane.

Dave Scott, systems engineer with Alberta Agriculture, says that in order to select the size and type of dryer which will best suit your particular harvesting operation, you should consider the following points:

- The dryer should be able to dry all the damp and tough grain that can be combined during an average day.
- The capacity of future harvesting equipment should be considered when selecting a dryer size.
- A portable batch with a propane fuel supply might be your best buy if your fields are spread over a considerable distance.
- An in-bin dryer or a continuous flow system might be your best bet if your grain handling system can be located at the farmstead.
- The availability of electricity and fuel should be taken into account. In some areas of Alberta natural gas lines cannot accomodate the fuel consumption rates of some of the larger dryers.
- The grain handling system should be evaluated before a decision on a dryer is made because the grain handling system is the most important part of an efficient and effective grain drying operation.
- The ability of the dryer to handle both cereal grains and oilseeds should also be considered.

- (cont'd) -

Purchasing a Grain Dryer (cont'd)

- The ease with which the dryer can be cleaned should be of special concern to seed growers.
- The grain dryer should be checked to make sure that it has been certified by one of the following recognized testing agencies: the Canadian Gas Association, the Canadian Standards Association or the Underwriting Laboratories in Canada.

Prices of grain dryers fall into the $6,000 to $18,000 price range and the operating costs can vary all the way from 4¢ to 18¢ per bushel. The operating costs include labor, repairs and fuel. Fuel costs are determined mainly by the moisture level of the grain, the grain drying temperature and the outside air temperature. Fuel costs will be lower if the dryer is used during August and September rather than during the winter months.

Alberta Agriculture's systems engineering branch has developed a computer simulation model which can evaluate the potential of any type of grain dryer. It predicts the drying rate, fuel consumption rate, and the operating and fixed costs. It can also help the farmer to determine the best conditions for drying by showing which combination of factors will give the lowest costs and the highest drying rates.

Several fact sheets are also available from the systems engineering branch. They contain information on the costs, performance and management of a grain drying operation.

If you would like more information on the computer simulation model, the fact sheets,or help in selecting or operating a grain dryer, contact your regional agricultural engineer or the Systems Engineering Branch, Agricultural Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

August 28, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLANTING FORAGE CROPS IN THE FALL

Can grass and legume crops be planted between now and freeze-up?

Alberta Agriculture's forage crops specialist, Larry Gareau, says grasses can be planted anytime after mid-August until freeze-up because they do not require a large build-up of food reserves to survive the winter. However, there must be enough moisture in the soil for them to germinate.

Legumes, on the other hand, should not be seeded until just before freeze-up to ensure that they do not germinate until next spring. Unlike grasses, legumes require a considerable food reserve to survive Alberta's cold winters, and there would not be enough time for these food reserves to accumulate before freeze-up. Mr. Gareau says the main risk of seeding legumes in the fall is the danger of a late frost the following spring.

He also points out that forage crops that are sown deeper than one inch do not usually emerge well. Their small seeds do not contain enough food to sustain them during a long growing period under ground.

A fine tilth makes the best seedbed for forage seedlings. However, because it can cause erosion and crusting problems in susceptible soils, it is a good idea to leave lumps on the field of about a half to one inch in diameter.

In view of the cost involved in preparing a seedbed for forage crops and the price of the seed, Mr. Gareau strongly recommends soil testing to find out what fertilizer is needed. He says the fertilizer should be incorporated into the soil before the crop is seeded, rather than with the seed, because forage seeds are considerably more prone to injury than the large seed of other crops. An even more important reason is that the fertilizer will kill the inoculant on the seed.

- (cont'd) -

Planting Forage Crops in the Fall (cont'd)

Companion crops are not recommended for grasses that are seeded in the late summer or in the fall. The reason is that competition from the companion crop would hinder the growth of the grasses which need as close to ideal conditions as possible to become well established before winter sets in.

- 30 -

August 28, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WILDLIFE DAMAGE FUND

Any farmer or rancher in Alberta who finds a domestic animal that has been wounded or killed by a firearm during the time that it is lawful to hunt game birds or big game animals in the area can claim compensation from the Wildlife Damage Fund. The fund is mainly financed from wildlife certificates purchased by sportsmen each year.

Current regulations limit the amount of compensation paid to a maximum of $500 for cattle, $400 for horses, $75 for sheep, $75 for pigs and $50 for goats.

To qualify for compensation, the owner of an animal that has been shot must file a report with the RCMP within three days of discovering the wounded or dead animal. Claim forms should be picked up from the RCMP at the time the complaint is filed.

The questions on the claim form should be answered as fully as possible. When the form has been completed, the person making the claim must swear before a commissioner of oaths or another person who is legally qualified to accept sworn documents that the information it contains is correct.

Regulations also require that two local ratepayers confirm that the animal was shot and give an estimate of its value. In the case of a carcass, a delay in having it examined and in reporting it to the RCMP could result in the carcass being eaten by predators or deteriorating so badly that it would not be possible to establish the cause of death.

Because the funds that support the Wildlife Damage Fund come from the sale of hunter's certificates, compensation cheques are not issued until early in the New Year. Compensation will not be paid unless it is established that the animal was killed or wounded by a firearm. Any claims that are in doubt, and disagreements on value of an animal, are referred to the Livestock Disaster Indemnity Committee for examination and a final recommendation.

Completed claim forms should be sent to the Fish and Wildlife Division, Alberta Recreation, Parks and Wildlife, 10363 - 108 Street, Edmonton, T5J 1L8.

August 28, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAIN LOSS MONITORS

Grain loss monitors must be calibrated to suit field conditions and combine loss characteristics if they are to provide meaningful information.

A grain loss monitor is an electronic instrument that indicates combine grain losses through sensors that are sensitive to seed impact. The sensors are mounted behind the straw walkers and the cleaning shoe. The signal from the sensors is indicated on a meter located near the combine operator. Most of these monitors warn the operator of an increase or decrease in the combine loss rate. They are not designed to measure the actual amont of grain loss.

If installed correctly and handled carefully, they can give reliable service, according to engineers at the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute. Some monitors are affected by electrical interference from other components on the combine, but this problem can usually be identified by erratic meter readings and can be controlled by attaching an electrical noise suppressor to the instrument or by using a dry cell battery to power the monitor.

Commonly available models can be installed on conventional pull-type or self-propelled combines in about five hours and they range in price from $325 to $650.

When installing a grain loss monitor, sensitivity must first be adjusted to discriminate between the particular variety of grain being combined and bits of straw, chaff or weedseeds. This is done by dropping several grain kernels on to the sensors and then setting the sensitivity control so that the indicator meter responds.

The next step is to set the combine to field conditions in the normal manner. The monitor should be set to indicate a reading of about a one-third of the scale which will represent satisfactory operation. The monitor will then indicate relative changes in loss rate. A significant increase in the meter reading is a signal to reduce the feeding rate by slowing down. A reduction in the meter reading means the feeding rate should be increased to optimize efficiency. Since crop conditions often change during the day, loss checks should be made periodically and the monitor readjusted if necessary.

- (cont'd) -

Grain Loss Monitors (cont'd)

Grain loss monitors are not designed for use on the new axial threshing combines, but it is possible to fit sensors on the shoe of an axial combine. However, since losses from this type of combine are quite low at normal feedrates, the need for a monitors is questionable.

Factors that affect the performance of a grain loss monitor are the sensitivity control adjustment, sensor size and the location and responsiveness of the meter. The sensitivity controls on most loss monitors perform well in heavy grains such as wheat and barley, but only a few perform well in light seeds like flax and rapeseed.

Sensor location is very important for the performance of a loss monitor. Several sensor locations are usually suggested in the operator's manual, but it is advisable to observe the path of grain loss from the shoe and the straw walkers to determine the best locations. Sidehill combining, for example, can cause a significant increase in loss rate at the lower side of the shoe. Full width sensors or two smaller sensors, appropriately placed, are necessary to monitor this type of loss.

Although the loss rate may fluctuate significantly over short periods of time, such fluctuations are usually too rapid for the operator to control. Since a responsive meter will fluctuate with these losses and be difficult to read, a dampened meter showing an average loss rate is more desirable.

Further information on grain loss monitors can be obtained in Alberta from the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute, c/o LCC Campus, Lethbridge, T1K 1L6.

August 28, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GROWING WINTER WHEAT

Winter wheat must be seeded between September 1 and 15 for maximum winter hardiness.

According to Dr. M. N. Grant, winter wheat breeder at the federal research station in Lethbridge, seeding winter wheat before September 1 increases the risk of infection from the virus disease, wheat streak mosaic. Preventing the spread of this virus depends upon avoiding an overlap of green spring wheat and the newly emerged winter wheat seedlings. Plant pathologists recommend that all winter wheat seed be treated with a recommended fungicide to control stinking smut or bunt and to ensure virgorous seedlings.

Winter wheat should be seeded shallowly in a firm seedbed and the recommended rate of phosphate fertilizer should be applied at seeding time. A phosphate fertilizer will increase both winter survival and yield.

Dr. Grant says surveys indicate that, as a general rule, the poor winter wheat stands that occurred this spring were caused by seeding too deeply and by the application of an insufficient amount of phosphate fertilizer at seeding time. Snow mold and low temperatures contributed to poor winter survival in a few isolated areas.

Most of the winter wheat grown in Alberta is Winalta and Sundance. However, Norstar, released by the Lethbridge research station last year, is more winter hardy than either Winalta or Sundance. Its baking qualities are superior to those of Sundance, and it is equal to that variety in yielding ability.

About 1,000 bushels of pedigreed Norstar seed were distributed to selected growers in Alberta and Saskatchewan last fall. Since there have been no reports of crop losses, a good supply of seed should be available this fall.

Alberta farmers increased their 1977-78 winter wheat to 350,000 acres from about 270,000 acres the previous year. Although winter wheat growing has been traditionally restricted

- (cont'd) -

Growing Winter Wheat (cont'd)

to the southwest corner of the province, this year it was grown farther to the north and east. In many cases it was grown north of the Trans-Canada Highway.

Detailed information on winter wheat varieties, agronomic practices and wheat streak mosaic control is contained in the publications "Winter Wheat Production in Western Canada" and "Wheat Streak Mosaic Control". They can be obtained from district agriculturists and from the Agriculture Canada Research Station, Lethbridge.

- 30 -

August 28, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EVALUATE YOUR FERTILIZER PROGRAM DURING HARVESTING

The best time to assess your fertilizer program and to locate areas where the growth is not what it might be is when you are harvesting.

Size of swath, length of straw and head and combine performance can all be used to indicate areas of poor growth, short stunted plants or a marked variability in crop growth.

Don Laverty, head of Alberta Agriculture's soil and feed testing laboratory in Edmonton, says that any of the above characteristics that are noted should be taken into consideration when taking soil tests. He recommends sampling small areas of unusual growth separately from the rest of the field or avoiding them altogether and sampling large areas of poor or unusual growth separately so the factors causing the growth differences can be identified and corrected.

Mr. Laverty also recommends noting changes in growth and yield that occur between low areas and high land or hilltops. "Do not attribute all growth differences to lack of moisture or to excessive moisture," he warns. "Nutrient supplies, soil acidity or alkalinity or soil salts may well be causing the difference in crop growth and yield."

Factors that should have been noted during the growing season and which should be taken into consideration in a well planned fertilizer program include areas where the seed was slow to germinate, areas where the crop was slow to mature and areas where the crop tended to lodge because of weak straw.

Mr. Laverty believes that a carefully planned soil sampling program that is based upon uniform soil type, past management techniques and observable crop growth differences can go a long way towards proving the data needed for future management changes. "Knowledge of the factors that are causing variations in crop growth and yield can often be used to indicate the changes that are needed in a fertilizer program and the management of a field" he says.

The best time to take and to submit soil samples is after October 1. Sampling kits and guides can be obtained from your district agriculturist.

- 30 -

August 28, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAPESEED COMBINING AND STORAGE HINTS

by Andy Birch
Alberta Agriculture's District Agriculturist at Stettler

A rape crop is ready to thresh when the moisture content is 10.5 per cent or lower. If there are still some green seeds, wait a few more days. Green seeds will ripen in the swath but not after they have been combined. Before combining, crush the seeds to make sure they are not green inside. Since a rape crop dries more quickly than a cereal crop, combining can begin earlier, and the crop can often be threshed under weather conditions that would make wheat too tough to thresh.

Check-out the Combine

Before combining, go over the combine thoroughly. Plug holes or spots worn through the table cover with a calking compound or masking tape. Seed leakage could occur through the stone trap, the top of the feeder housing or the lower inspection doors on the elevators.

Pick-up Adjustment

Set the pick-up height low enough to just get under the swath. If the pick-up is too high or the speed too fast, the swath will be dragged and jerked up onto the table. If it is too slow, the swath will be pushed and fed into the cylinder in bunches. The pick-up speed should equal the forward travelling speed of the combine so that the swath is gently lifted onto the table without any tearing or bunching.

Table Auger

Set the auger low enough to clear the straw from the table and minimize shelling. Start with a clearance of 3/8 to 1/2 inch. Too little clearance will result in broken straws, shelling and seed loss. Also check the auger to make sure it is level and that the clearance is the same at both ends.

- (cont'd) -

Feeder Chain

The feeder chain can float to conform to the crop entering the elevator. Rapeseed swaths are generally large (6-8 feet wide and 1-2 feet thick) and taking the pressure off the conveyor chain may help reduce shattering. However, it should not be so loose that the swath does not move smoothly and evenly into the cylinder.

Cylinder Speed

The combine cylinder speed should be set at about 1/2 to 2/3 of that used for threshing cereals. Set it just fast enough to rub the seeds out of the pods. If it is too fast, straw breakage will occur and the sieves will become overloaded. Too slow a speed results in many unbroken pods that must pass through the return or are lost out of the back of the combine by riding over on the sieve.

As a guide, you could start with a cylinder speed of 600 rpm, but be prepared to change this for the conditions you have.

Concave Setting

The concaves should be opened so that stems and pods are not broken more than is necessary. The setting should be one that does the best threshing the first time through the combine and keeps the returns low. Poor threshing leads to an excessive load on the return and the possibility of higher losses over the sieves. Concave clearance at the front should be fairly wide (about 5/8 inch) and narrow at the rear (about 1/8 to 1/4 inch) to provide good threshing.

Chaffer and Clean Grain Sieve

The top sieve or chaffer should be open enough (1/4 to 1/3 or 1/4 to 3/8 of an inch) to allow the air to lift the chaff with a shaking action as it is moved along the sieve. If possible, increase the shoe speed by 10 per cent. These adjustments will minimize seed loss.

The chaffer extension should be raised slightly (5 to 10 degrees) at the rear and opened sufficiently to allow unthreshed pods to pass through into the return.

- (cont'd) -

Rapeseed Combining and Storage Hints (cont'd)

The lower sieve should be nearly closed (1/8 to 1/4 inch). If there is too much trash in the grain tank, the sieve may be open too much. If the sample is too clean, rapeseed may be going over the back of the combine and the sieves may have to be opened slightly. Excessive returns result in the seed being cracked. This can overload one section of the machine and result in high losses. If the returns are too high, there may be too much wind, not enough wind or the top sieve may be open too much. There should be as little material as possible going into the returns.

Wind Adjustment

Since rapeseed kernels are light, they can be readily blown out of the combine. To maintain adequate air volume, reduce the fan speed and open the shutters. If there is a large amount of trash in the return, or the rapeseed is riding over the chaffer, increase the wind speed. If the rapeseed is being blown out, lower the wind speed. Start with a low fan speed and gradually increase it until the separation of chaff and seeds occur with no rapeseed blown over the chaffer sieve.

To do a good job of combining requires a skilled operator working with a properly adjusted machine. Adjustments are often necessary with varying field, crop and weather conditions.

Storing Rapeseed

The accepted moisture level of rapeseed for marketing is 10.5 per cent. However, for long term storage (one month or more) this may not be safe.

Effects of Temperature and Moisture Upon Storage

Rapeseed that has lain in the field during poor harvesting weather will heat more readily than sound, clean seed. Research has shown that rapeseed with a 10.5 per cent moisture content should not be stored at temperatures above 12° C. If stored at a higher moisture content, bin heating will likely occur. Rapeseed put in storage at 27° C and at 10.5 per cent moisture

- (cont'd) -

content will heat spontaneously, whereas seed at 16°C may not. To safely store rapeseed at 27°C, the moisture content would have to be lowered to 8 per cent. If the moisture content is above 8 per cent and the temperature is above 27°C during storage, germination and oil quality losses may occur.

Dockage Material in Storage

Although the moisture content of rapeseed may be below 10.5 per cent, weed seeds and volunteer grain mixed with the seed may result in a storage moisture content of over 10.5 per cent. Rapeseed containing grain, weed seeds and other dockage material that tests over 10.5 per cent should not be binned. It should be dried and stored at a lower moisture content, preferably at 9.5 per cent.

Re-augering Bins

Immature grain and weed seeds cause heat spots to develop in the bin. Re-augering the rapeseed within three to five days will break up any pockets of green seed and dockage material that could start to heat. Localized heating can occur even when an overall sample has a moisture content of less than 10.5 per cent. Even after re-augering, the bin should be checked regularly because heating could seriously affect the quality, value and use of the rapeseed.

August 28, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSHROOM COLLECTING FOR BEGINNERS

Many people think that it is possible to distinguish edible from poisonous mushrooms by a simple rule or test. Some even believe that they know the tests.

According to a federal publication, "Mushroom Collecting for Beginners", this belief is more dangerous than complete ignorance because these so-called tests are known to be worthless, and, if relied upon, may result in serious trouble. A person who is aware of the danger and knows his own lack of knowledge will probably leave all mushrooms alone, while a person who relies on false tests may be misled into eating a poisonous species.

It is simply not true, for example, that a mushroom that peels is safe to eat. One of the most deadly species know, the Destroying Angel, peels very easily. Furthermore, the poisons produced by different mushrooms are quite different chemical substances that have very different effects on the human body. Hence, it is not reasonable to expect that a simple chemical test, such as the blackening of silver, can detect two types of poison. In fact, there is no evidence to suggest that it can detect even one type of poison.

There is considerable confusion concerning the terms "mushroom" and "toadstool". "Most people using the word toadstool," says the publication, "have in mind some poisonous or undesirable fungus, but in actuality this term has no scientific meaning and does not correspond in any sense to a botanical classification." Since poisonous and edible species may occur in the same family, and may even be closely related, it is more realistic to speak only of mushrooms, some of which are edible, some of which are not edible because of undesirable characteristics and some of which are poisonous.

The publication goes on to point out that even through there is no simple rule or test for distinguishing edible and poisonous mushrooms, a layman, if properly informed, may enjoy tasty mushroom dishes in safety. He does not need to be a trained botanist to recognize different mushroom species any more than he needs to be a trained botanist to recognize wild

- (cont'd) -

Mushroom Collecting for Beginners (cont'd)

strawberries, raspberries, etc. It takes only a little study and careful observation to become acquaninted with half a dozen or more species of mushrooms and to be able to recognize them on sight.

If you would like to learn more about mushrooms and which species are safe to eat you will find "Mushroom Collecting for Beginners" an invaluable help. It contains a description and pictures of many common, edible and non-edible mushroom species found in Canada.

In Alberta copies of "Mushroom Collecting for Beginners" may be obtained from the publications office, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

August 28, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRESH CORN ON THE COB

Here are some guidelines, submitted by Brenda Strathern to help you enjoy the best possible flavor from your corn on the cob. Ms. Strathern is a marketing official with Alberta Agriculture, and is located in Calgary.

The first thing she recommends is to check the husks before you buy the corn. She says they should be bright green and tightly wrapped around the ear and that the silk tassel should be shiny and moist. The kernels inside the husks should be creamy yellow, plump and just firm enough to offer slight resistance when pressed.

Ms. Strathern also recommends storing corn on the cob in a cool place. "This will slow down the change of natural sugars into starch," she says. "By keeping the sugar 'in' you will keep the corn sweet and juicy. Unlike good whisky, corn does not improve with age. We recommend eating it the same day that you purchase it or as soon after as possible."

Do not overcook your corn or it will become tough and dry. Remove the hushs and silk and drop the ears into rapidly boiling, unsalted water (salt hardens the kernels) to which a pinch of sugar has been added. Leave the saucepan uncovered and cook young ears for only three to four minutes. Mature ears will require a cooking time of five to seven minutes. Drain the ears as soon as they are cooked (corn left in water loses its flavor and becomes waterlogged) and serve immediately.

If you would like to receive Alberta Agriculture's corn recipe pamphlet contact the food marketing branch in Calgary at 208 Chinook Centre, 6455 Macleod Trail, Calgary, T2H 0K8 (Telephone 253-6252) or the food marketing branch in Edmonton at Centre West Building, 10035 - 108 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 3E1 (Telephone 427-4036).

- 30 -

August 28, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS MARKETING COUNCIL APPOINTMENT

Alberta's minister of agriculture, Marvin Moore, has announced the appointment of R. (Dick) J. Page to the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council.

As an active farmer, Mr. Page has been involved in many endeavors including serving on the local school board, R.E.A. and local F.U.A. He also served as vice-president of Unifarm and was a member of the Alberta Livestock Co-op Board. He was appointed to the provincial hog board and elected chairman in 1969. He was then elected to the hog board in 1971, and, after serving as a member, was elected chairman for six years. He is serving for five years on the Alberta Weather Modification Board and is presently a board member of the Alberta Union of R.E.A.

Mr. Page was born in Calgary and grew up on a farm east of Didsbury. He is married and has five children.

In view of Mr. Page's extensive involvement in the agriculture industry, Mr. Moore said he will be a valuable addition to the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council.

- 30 -